NATION

SC pulls up Delhi govt, top cop over lousy cracker ban

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

In India's biggest, Reliance Jio eyes $100B IPO in 2025

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Gambhir's record under lens after Lanka, NZ loss

≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈہ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in www.magzter.com 5 NOVEMBER 2024 | TUESDAY | BENGALURU | 2 JUMADA AL-AWWAL 144 Vol 4 | Issue No 280 | Pages: 8

IAF JET IN FLAMES

Smoke billows after an IAF plane crashed and caught fire, near Agra, on Monday. The pilot of the aircraft ejected safely. Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the crash ***PHOTO: PTI***

2 arrested for gangrape in Mysuru

MYSURU, 4 NOV

Two people have been arrested for allegedly gangraping a woman in Mysuru city on Sunday. The young woman had met the accused at a pub in Mysuru, according to preliminary reports. One of the accused lured the woman to a lodge and allegedly committed the crime. The accused also invited one of his relatives to the lodge. The woman lodged a complaint with Vijayanagar police. Police have collected CCTV footage of the woman partying with one of the accused people in the pub, sources said. Another footage showed the victim and the accused entering the lodge and leaving from there. She has not suffered any injuries. Further inquiries underway. ***—Salar News***

Deadline for HSRP plates in K'taka extended to 30 Nov

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

The State transport department has extended the deadline for compulsory installation of the High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) on all vehicles till 30 November. This is the fourth time that the department has extended the deadline mandating the HSRP number plate. The transport department officials said that apart from various other issues, there is a hesitancy to adopt the new registration plates which might be due to lack of awareness among the public. Previously the department had set 15 September as the deadline announcing that any vehicle found without HSRP after the date will face a fine of Rs 500. ***—Salar News***

Wicketkeeper Saha to retire from Int'l cricket

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Star India wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha announced his retirement from international cricket on Monday in order to focus on first-class cricket and also to help Bengal to win the Ranji title which they narrowly missed in the 2019-20 season as they lost to Saurashtra in the final Saha last played for India in 2021 and has scored 1,353 runs in 40 Tests for India, with three centuries and six fifties in 56 innings. He has also played five ODIs for India. Bengal cricketer took to social media and announced the decision of his retirement. "After a cherished journey in cricket, this season will be my last. ***—ANI***

>>>More on Page 8

'Khalistanis' beat up Hindus at Canada temple

MEA condemns acts of violence by extremists & separatists

OTTAWA, 4 NOV

Protesters carrying Khalistani flags clashed with people at a Hindu temple in Brampton, triggering condemnation by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who said every Canadian has the right to practise their faith freely and safely.

On Sunday, Peel Regional Police said that a protest occurred at the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton and unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

The videos showed fist fights and people striking each other with poles on what appears to be the grounds surrounding the Hindu Sabha Mandir temple, the report added.

"The acts of violence at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton today are unacceptable. Every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely. Thank you to the Peel Regional Police for swiftly responding to protect the community and investigate this incident," Trudeau said in a post on X on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed the attack and asked the government there to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law.

In a post on X, Modi also flayed the "cowardly attempts" to intimidate Indian diplomats.

Videos show fist fights and people striking each other in Hindu Sabha Mandir temple, Canada, on Monday ***PHOTO: X/SCREENGRAB***

He said, "I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve."

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada.

"We condemn the acts of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario yesterday. We call on the government of Canada to ensure that all places of worship are protected from such attacks," Jaiswal was quoted as saying in the statement.

Trudeau is "sociologically and politically" an "idiot" who has never truly understood that the vast majority of Sikhs are quite secular in their outlook and want nothing to do with Khalistan, according to Ujjal Dosanjh, a former Canadian minister.

The Peel Regional Police in Canada said that they have arrested three individuals after the attacks on Hindu temples in Canada.

The relations between India and Canada came under severe strain following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing.

—PTI/ANI

>>>More on Pages 3&5

Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve.

—NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

The acts of violence at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton today are unacceptable. Every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely.

—JUSTIN TRUDEAU, Canadian Prime Minister

'READY TO FACE PROBE'

Lokayukta summons CM in MUDA case

MYSURU, 4 NOV

Lokayukta police have summoned Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for questioning in the MUDA site allotment case on 6 November, official sources said on Monday.

They had on 25 October questioned his wife Parvathi BM, who is also an accused in the case.

"We asked him to appear on Wednesday morning," a senior Lokayukta official told PTI. CM is facing allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Reacting to Lokayukta summons, Siddaramaiah, speaking to reporters in Haveri district, said: "I will go..."

Siddaramaiah, his wife, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju -- from whom Swamy had purchased a land and gifted it to Parvathi -- and others have been named in the FIR registered by the Mysuru-located Lokayukta police establishment on 27 September. Swamy and Devaraju have also deposed before the Lokayukta police.

Chief Minister on 24 October filed an appeal before the division bench of the High Court, challenging the decision of a single judge bench in connection with the MUDA site allotment case that had come as a setback to him.

The bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna had on 24 September dismissed the CM's petition challenging Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's approval for a probe against him in the case, observing that the gubernatorial order nowhere "suffers from want of application of mind". *—PTI*

Siddaramaiah ***PHOTO: PTI***

BJP protests against Cong over Wafq row

Bengaluru, 4 Nov

Following allegations by a section of farmers in Karnataka that their lands were marked as Waqf properties, BJP held a Statewide protest, accusing the ruling Congress government of indulging in "land jihad". Opposition also demanded sacking of Waqf Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

US POLL PREDICTIONS CLASH

WASHINGTON DC, 4 NOV

The feud between the top US election forecasters Allan Lichtman and Nate Silver will soon be put to the test as voters are set to cast their ballots on Tuesday.

Lichtman, an American University professor who has correctly predicted nine out of 10 of the last presidential elections, has forecasted a win for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Silver, the statistician and pollster who founded FiveThirtyEight, wrote recently in the New York Times that the race is a virtual tie, but his "gut" tells him former President Donald Trump will likely prevail.

Pinning on Trump, Silver said on social media: "At least 7 of the keys, maybe 8, clearly favour Trump. Sorry brother, but that's what the keys say. Unless you're admitting they're totally arbitrary?" Clapping back at Silver, Lichtman said that Silver who has an economics degree, was "not a historian or a political scientist" and had made incorrect predictions.

Lichtman uses the "13 Keys to the White House," a system based on thirteen true-or-false statements about the country's state, theparties, and the candidates. He claims that at least eight of the keys favour Harris in 2024.

Conversely, Silver builds probabilistic statistical models using national and state polling, economic data, and likely voter turnout.

He builds probabilistic statistical models based on national and state polling, economic data points, likely voter turnout and other factors.

The model also adjusts for discrepancies in the polls it aggregates and weights more heavily pollsters it considers more reliable.

—Agencies

>>>More on Pages 5, 6 & 7

M'rashtra DGP transferred ahead of polls

MUMBAI, 4 NOV

Election Commission of India has ordered the immediate transfer of the Maharashtra Director General of Police (DGP) Rashmi Shukla and ordered the Maharashtra Chief Secretary to hand over her responsibilities to the next senior-most IPS officer in the cadre.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and his MVA allies Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress on Monday welcomed the move. EC, which took the decision after complaints from political parties, directed the Maharashtra chief secretary to hand over Shukla's charge to the next senior-most IPS officer in the cadre.

The chief secretary was also directed to send a panel of three IPS officers by Tuesday afternoon for appointment as DGP, sources said.

"The Election Commission has taken the right decision. Such persons should not continue in the post," Pawar told reporters in Mumbai. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS ARE POSTPONED IN 14 SEATS TO 20 NOV

Kerala: Palakkad

Punjab: Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal, Gidderbaha and Barnala

Uttar Pradesh: Meerapur, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Karhal, Sishamau, Phulpur, Katehari and Majhawan

EX-GRATIA OF RS 2 LAKH

Uttarakhand: 36 killed as bus falls into gorge

MARCHULA, 4 NOV

A packed beyond capacity bus carrying passengers returning to work after Diwali fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora district on Monday, killing at least 36 of the about 60 people on board. Of the 36 killed, 10 are women.

Twenty-four people were injured, four of them critically, when the 43-seater bus, operated by the private Garhwal Motor Owner Association, was on its way from Pauri in Garhwal region to Ramnagar in Kumaon about 250 km away. The accident took place around 8 am, almost the fag end of the overnight journey, said District Magistrate Alok Kumar Pandey.

The bus plunged into a 200-metre gorge in Almora's Marchula area 35 km before its destination Ramnagar, he said.

A magisterial probe has been ordered and the assistant regional transport officers of Pauri and Almora suspended.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge were among those who expressed their grief at the loss of lives in the accident and prayed for the quick recovery of the injured.

PHOTO: PTI

The prime minister announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and an assistance of Rs 50,000 for the injured. He said the local administration is making every possible effort for relief and rescue.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin and financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh for the injured. *—PTI*

PROBE AGAINST SHIVAKUMAR: CBI MOVES SC

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a Special Leave Petition before Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka government's withdrawal of consent for probe against Congress leader and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar in a disproportionate assets case.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing another plea assailing the withdrawal of consent, filed by BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal, when Solicitor General Tushar Mehta apprised about the filing of CBI's appeal. The SG said both cases may be listed together.

SC was hearing a plea filed by BJP MLA Basangouda R Patil (Yatnal) who had challenged 29 August Karnataka HC order rejecting his plea against withdrawal of consent.

The apex court had on 17 September issued a notice to Shivakumar and the State government on the MLA's plea.

It dismissed plea challenging 23 November, 2023 order of State government referring alleged Rs 74.93 crore DA case to Lokayukta. The CBI had alleged Shivakumar amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income between 2013 and 2018 being a minister. *—PTI*

PROMISE OF AN AUTO

Man dies as friends dare him to sit on crackers

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

A drunken daredevilry cost a 32-year-old man his life after he allegedly sat on a box of firecrackers as his friends lit them during their Deepavali celebrations on the night of 1 November, police said on Monday.

The deceased is Shabarish. The group of seven had gathered at Konanakunte around 4pm on Friday to celebrate Deepavali. While bursting firecrackers in a drunken state, they told Shabarish they would gift him an autorickshaw if he sat on a box of firecrackers while others lit it.

Shabarish, an unemployed man and a resident of the same locality, accepted the challenge, police said.

A video footage of the act, which has gone viral on social media, shows a loud explosion and Shabarish falling to the ground. He was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries on Saturday, a senior police officer said.

The police have collected the CCTV footage of the act and based on the evidence, arrested all six people involved in the incident. The accused are Naveen, Dinakar, Satyavelu, Karthik, Satish and Santosh.

"A case of culpable homicide has been registered and the six members of the group involved in the incident have been arrested and produced before the court," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Bengaluru) Lokesh Jagalasar. Family and relatives of the deceased have demanded severe punishment. *— Salar News*

A case of culpable homicide has been filed against 6 ***PHOTO: X***

Investors poorer by Rs 5.99L crore

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 5.99 lakh crore on Monday due to heavy sell-off in stock markets with the BSE Sensex tumbling more than 1 per cent.

Markets were dragged down by Reliance Industries, banking shares and unabated selling by foreign investors. Investors also turned cautious ahead of the US presidential elections and Federal Reserve interest rate decision scheduled to be announced this week.

The BSE benchmark tumbled 941.88 points or 1.18 per cent to settle at 78,782.24, the lowest closing level since 6 August. During the day, it slumped 1,491.52 points or 1.87 per cent to 78,232.60.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 5,99,539.5 crore to Rs 4,42,11,068.05 crore. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors, Axis Bank and Titan were among the major laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies, Infosys and IndusInd Bank were the gainers. *—PTI*

PHOTO: SALAR

Visually impaired artiste wins Janapada Award

MYSURU, 4 NOV

Gowramma, a visually impaired Sobhane folk singer from Chamarajanagar has been chosen for prestigious 2023 State Janapada awards by the academy. She was selected one among the list of 30 artistes announced by the Academy on Monday. Gowramma hails from Honnur village, Chamarajanagar. The announcement of the award for Gowramma received huge appreciation from people across the Chamarajanagar. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is set to attend the event. The other details are awaited from the officials. ***—Salar News***

Businessman burnt alive as car turns turtle

CHINTAMANI, 4 NOV

A businessman was burnt alive after the car he was driving turned upside down and caught fire near Murugamalla in Chintamani taluk on Sunday. Ibrahim, 45, was on the way to his in-law's house near Murugamalla. When his car reached between Barlahalli and Gollapalli around 8.30pm, the vehicle went to the extreme right side of the road and turned upside down, according to Shivakumar, PSI, Kencharlahalli police station. As the car was fitted with a gas kit, gas got released, fire broke out and Ibrahim was burnt alive. Ibrahim used to shuttle among villages for selling various items including footwear and he was carrying slipper boxes in the car when the accident took place. ***—Salar News.***

Phones, laptop collected from Guruprasad's flat

MYSURU, 4 NOV

In connection with the alleged suicide of Kannada film director Guruprasad, investigating officers have collected three mobile phones, two tablets and a laptop from his flat under Madanayakanahalli police station limits in the City. Superintendent of Police (Bengaluru Rural) CK Baba told Salar News on Monday that the devices were in a switched-off state as their batteries had died. The gadgets have been sent for forensic analysis, he said. The police aim to examine Guruprasad's call history, text messages and WhatsApp conversations to find if there are patterns suggesting external pressures leading to his alleged suicide. They are also planning to examine Guruprasad's bank accounts. The 52-year-old was found hanging inside his flat on Sunday. Even though the police suspect suicide, no suicide note was found from his flat. ***—Salar News***

State to hold 1st seaplane demonstration

MYSURU, 4 NOV

Mandya district administration is set to demonstrate State's first seaplane on the backwaters of Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir (KRS) at Srirangapatna taluk in Mandya district on 10 November. The seaplane carrying 12-odd tourists will land on the backwaters of KRS near Venugopala Swamy Temple at 9.30am. Karnataka State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation and Union Ministry of Civil Aviation have initiated this project to promote tourism, Mandya Deputy Commissioner R Kumar said. The Union government, which introduced seaplane tourism at Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat in 2020, later introduced it in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. A technical inspection of the landing site was conducted on Sunday evening by a team led by Tharanath S Rathod, Executive Engineer, Ports Division, Public Works, Ports & Inland Water Transport Department. ***—Salar News***

Waqf row: BJP protests against Cong's 'land jihad'

Oppn wants Waqf Minister sacked; CM cries foul

BENGALURU/MYSURU, 4 NOV

Upping the ante following allegations by a section of farmers in certain parts of Karnataka that their lands were marked as Waqf properties, BJP on Monday held a State-wide protest, accusing the ruling Congress government of indulging in "land jihad".

The Opposition party also demanded the sacking of Waqf Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan from the Cabinet. BJP has decided to go ahead with the protest despite Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday directing officials that all notices issued to farmers be immediately revoked, and any unauthorised amendments in land records without due notice must also be nullified.

There were allegations by a section of farmers from Vijayapura district that their lands were marked as Waqf properties, and similar charges have surfaced from a few other places.

While BJP State President BY Vijayendra led the protest in Ballari, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly R Ashoka took part in it at KR Puram here. Similarly, party leaders have joined the protests in different parts of the State. In Mysuru, BJP activists protested outside the office of Deputy Commissioner at Siddarthanagar, accusing the government of indulging in "land jihad".

Siddaramaiah on Monday termed the BJP's State-wide protest as nothing but politics. "BJP never fights on issues, they always make false allegations; they protest for the sake of politics. Where is the issue? Basavaraj Bommai (BJP MP and former CM) had earlier said every inch of Waqf property that has been encroached has to be recovered, now he is speaking against it for political reasons," Siddaramaiah said.

He said people have understood that the Waqf property issue is not something that is new, and notices were served during all previous governments including BJP. "I have said clearly after holding a meeting that notices issued to farmers should be immediately revoked, and any unauthorised amendments in land records without due notice must also be nullified. And farmers should not be evicted for any reason, whether they are Muslims or Hindus or Christians anyone else," he added. *—Salar News with Agencies*

Opposition Leader in Assembly R Ashoka and BJP leaders protest against Congress government's alleged 'land jihad' over Waqf row issue on Monday at KR Puram in Bengaluru ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

WAR OVER GUARANTEES

CM: BJP opposes guarantee as it wants poor to remain weak

HUBBALLI, 4 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday alleged that BJP was opposed to guarantee schemes of Congress government as they give economic and social strength to all sections of the society. BJP wants the poor and weaker sections to remain as they are so that it can "misuse" them, he said.

"We want to empower people through social justice to ensure that backward communities come to the mainstream," Siddaramaiah said. "BJP misuses poor and people who don't have strength in the society. When you get strength, how can they misuse you? So BJP doesn't want people to get strength economically and socially."

The CM's assertion over his government's schemes comes amid a spat between Congress and BJP leaders, both at State and national level, following Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday indicating about revisiting one of the schemes -- 'Shakti' -- which provides free bus travel for all women domiciled in the state.

Siddaramaiah said the Congress government is waging a fight to get justice from the Centre. Noting that the 16th Finance Commission that has been constituted had recently visited Karnataka, he said, "We (Karnataka) faced injustice from the 15th Finance Commission. We (state) are giving more than Rs 4.50 lakh crore as tax per year, what we get back is Rs 55,000-Rs 65,000 crore. Is that right?" No BJP leader is speaking against injustice happening to Karnataka, he said. "Has Pralhad Joshi (Union minister), Basavaraj Bommai and Jagadish Shettar (both MPs and former CM) ever spoken on injustice happening to Karnataka? What should we say, if talking about injustice happening to Karnataka is called political?" *—PTI*

Siddaramaiah ***PHOTO: PTI***

IN A WEEK

Traffic cops collect ₹ 7.27 lakh in fines

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

In a special drive conducted during the past week, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) registered 1,718 cases against motorists for traffic rule violations and collected Rs 7,27,000 as fines from them.

The drive was conducted in the City between 28 October and 3 November to keep traffic offenders under check during the festival holidays. The BTP stated that officers from 50 traffic police stations in the City checked a total of 18,502 vehicles during the drive.

According to the release, total 394 cases have been booked for Drink and Drive and 128 cases were registered for speeding. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said the special crackdown would continue and urged the citizens to follow the rules. *—Salar News*

Vehicles Checked (28 Oct–3 Nov)	CASES REGISTERED			Fine Collected (Rs)
	Drink and drive	Speeding	Others	
18,502	394	128	1,196	7,27,000

Post-holiday rush slows down traffic, queues at Metro stns

People stand in long queues in front of Nagasandra Metro station to catch a ride as people return to City after four days of Deepavali holidays, in Bengaluru, on Monday ***PHOTO: SALAR***

BENGALURU/ MYSURU 4 NOV

Bengaluru's Nagasandra Metro station, which is on the Green Line, saw huge crowds on Monday morning after a long festive weekend.

A km long line outside this metro station as it saw ITS highest footfall of 15,800 passengers.

Bengaluru's already crowded roads faced severe traffic jams on Monday after the four-day Deepavali break, particularly around Majestic and along Chitradurga-Sira (Tumakuru)-Bengaluru stretch. The influx of vehicles returning to the City has strained road infrastructure, causing extensive delays and frustration for commuters.

A massive traffic jam has developed between Sira and Bengaluru, with vehicle speeds struggling to exceed 10 km/h and in some sections, queues of vehicles stretched 3-5km.

Meanwhile, Nelamangala police alleviated congestion near Kunigal Bypass, allowing smoother travel amid rain.

2 youths arrested for throwing firecrackers at commuters

Two youths have been arrested for lighting firecrackers and throwing them at commuters during Deepavali at HBR Layout in North Bengaluru on 31 October. The arrested are Aditya S, 19, a resident of Kaduganahalli in Ashok Nagar, and his friend who is 18 years old. Deputy Traffic Commissioner of Police, North Bengaluru, said, "Endangering the lives of others using crackers will land you in a police station."

4 children suffer firecracker injuries

Four cases of fire cracker-related eye injuries were reported in Mysuru during Deepavali celebrations. Among these, one child had to undergo eye surgery. The injured have been identified as Lokesh, 4. *—Salar News*

Those who played political game of chess are gone: DKS

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

Stating that people vote based on performance, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Monday that all those who played the political game of chess are doomed.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy is in fray on the Channapatna seat against Congress candidate CP Yogeeshwara for the byelections on 13 November.

"The people will rate the work of DK Suresh, CP Yogeeshwara and HD Kumaraswamy in this election," Shivakumar said here. "In a democracy, what matters is the work done by the leaders. People decide the winner on the basis of their work and not by anything else," he added.

About the joint campaigns of BJP leaders R Ashok, CT Ravi and JD(S) leader Kumaraswamy in Channapatna, Shivakumar said, "JD(S) did not support BJP's Mysuru Chalo padayatra; BJP has to support the JD(S) at least."

About celebrities demanding grants for Jayanagar Assembly constituency, he said, "We have already given an allocation of Rs 40 crore to Jayanagar. Jayanagar MLA met me and I have answered his questions. I will talk about it once I visit the constituency." *—ANI*

15 TN pilgrims injured as minibus collides with truck

UDUPI, 4 NOV

Fifteen pilgrims from Tamil Nadu were injured after their minibus allegedly collided with a stationary truck on National Highway 66 near Udyavara village, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred on November 3 when a group of 18 pilgrims, travelling in a TN-registered minibus driven by Satish Kumar, was en route to Kollur Mookambika Temple.

According to police, the minibus, which departed from Mangaluru, collided with a truck parked on the roadside near a petrol pump around 6.45am on Sunday. Rash and negligent driving could have led to the accident, they said.

Local residents sent the injured people to a hospital in the district for treatment.

Of the 18 people on board, 13 sustained minor injuries, while two individuals suffered serious injuries. *—PTI*

FAKE VIDEOS OF AMBANI, MURTHY

3 City residents lose ₹1 cr to cyber fraud

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

Three people have complained to police here that they have collectively lost about Rs 1 crore to cyber fraudsters after they fell prey to fake videos allegedly featuring two top businessmen.

In two cases, the complainants didn't check the authenticity of the alleged videos and ended up clicking some suspicious links which led them to fake websites created by fraudsters to cheat people and make money on promises of giving them higher returns, they said on Monday.

"As per the complainants, only after investing in these social media platforms did they realise that the alleged videos featuring Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy and Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani were used to get them to suspicious links and without any due diligence on their part, they ended up investing only to realise that they were cheating using fake videos of such personalities," a police officer said.

In the first case, a resident of Banashankari here came across a video promoting a trading platform promising high returns on investments, police said. According to the woman, she clicked the link on some suspicious-looking website and shared her details with the alleged platform. Later, she received a call from an unidentified man, claiming to be an agent associated with the alleged platform convincing her to make investments for higher returns.

Initially, she invested around Rs 1.4 lakh and got returns of Rs 8,000 and when she invested Rs 6.7 lakh from the second time, she did not get any returns and lost the invested amount as well, a police officer said. In a similar manner, she also got cheated of Rs 67 lakh with another platform, police said.

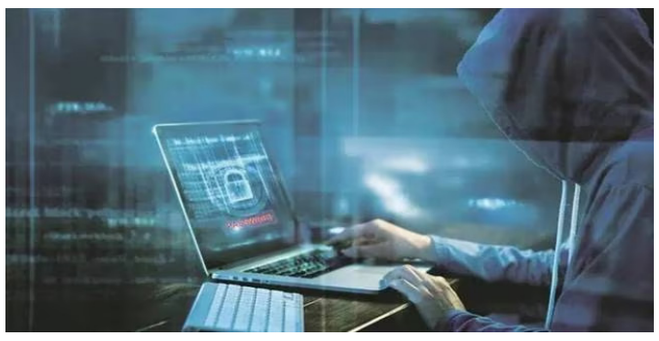
In the second case, a retired employee fell victim to a video on a social media platform promoting a trading platform promising higher returns on investments, the officer said. He lost Rs 19 lakh after he transferred the amount to two bank accounts shared by the alleged fraudsters. But once the amount was transferred, he did not get any response, he said.

In a separate case, a 76-year-old woman from Cunningham Road claimed that she was placed 'under digital arrest' and defrauded of Rs 10.21 lakh.

The woman said she received a phone call on 25 October from a person who introduced himself to be an executive from a private telecom provider company.

"The man claimed that my phone number is involved in several illegal activities including money laundering and a complaint has been filed against me in one such case," she said in her complaint to cybercrime police in Bengaluru.

The woman transferred Rs 10.21 lakh to bank accounts and when the scamster demanded Rs 2 lakh more, she filed a complaint with Cyber and Economics Narcotics, Bengaluru Central division. *—Salar News with Agencies*



In the second case, a retired employee fell victim to a video on a social media platform ***PHOTO: PIXABAY***

Man killed in brawl over sleeping spot

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

Avalahalli police arrested a person for killing a 40-year-old man in a row over occupying his sleeping spot outside a temple.

The police found the body of the middle aged man, identified as Kumar, lying a few metres away from the Muneshwara temple in Avalahalli on 31 October. On inspection, they concluded that he was strangulated and a team was formed to nab the accused.

Based on suspicion, the police detained Krishnamurthy, a homeless man who used to sleep outside the temple. During interrogation, Krishnamurthy admitted to have strangulated Kumar on Thursday following a fight over sleeping in a spot usually used by him. *—Salar News*

CITY STUDENT KILLED IN FARMHOUSE

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

A 21-year-old college student died after he was allegedly attacked by three men at a farmhouse on the outskirts of the City, police said on Monday. Three people have been arrested in connection with the case.

The incident occurred on 26 October, when Punith, a BCom student, along with seven of his friends, including two girls, had gone to a farmhouse in Chikkenahalli near here. The accused from nearby Honnapura area, allegedly reached the farmhouse at night and started abusing Punith and his friends, police said. They also began filming his female friends who were in the swimming pool. When Punith tried to stop them, they attacked him with a wooden log, injuring him on his head, following which he was taken to hospital, where he succumbed to injuries four days later. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: X

NC's Abdul Rahim Rather elected J&K Assembly Speaker

SRINAGAR, 4 NOV

Veteran National Conference leader and seven-time MLA from Charar-e-Sharief Abdul Rahim Rather was on Monday elected the first speaker of the legislative assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Leader of the House and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said Rather, 80, was a "natural choice" for the post due to his vast experience. He said Rather has earlier raised the dignity of the House in various capacities, and as the custodian of the House now, "we expect you to do justice with all members". Rather was elected the speaker with a voice vote after the opposition parties decided against contesting for the post. *—PTI*

UP scribe held for 'defamatory' story against BJP MP

GHAZIABAD, 4 NOV

The editor of a local newspaper here was arrested for publishing an allegedly defamatory story against BJP MP Atul Garg, police said on Monday. Garg, the BJP MP from Ghaziabad, had on October 6 lodged a police complaint against Congress leader Dolly Sharma for allegedly defaming him while campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year. The BJP MP alleged that Sharma, who contested against him, "tarnished" his image by calling him a part of the "land mafia". Imran Khan, the editor of 'Aap Abhi Tak', was booked for publishing the "defamatory" news. He was arrested on Saturday. Sharma had accused Garg of encroaching on 31,000 square metres of government land on which he constructed a housing society. She even claimed to have documents supporting her charge and the same was published by some local newspapers and web portals. *—PTI*

Shah's name on Interpol's 'list', says Pak netizens

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Canada, several Pakistan-based social media users recently shared a graphic card to claim that the Interpol had put Union Home Minister Amit Shah on its 'wanted list'. The graphic was shared after Canada's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison recently alleged that Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada. New Delhi has vehemently rejected Morrison's claims and warned that such "absurd and baseless" allegations will have serious consequences for bilateral ties. The PTI Fact Check Desk, however, found the graphic to be fake. *—PTI*

Woman who sent death threat to Yogi released

MUMBAI, 4 NOV

The Mumbai police have released the 24-year-old woman apprehended for allegedly giving a death threat to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after interrogating her, an official said on Monday. Fatima Khan, an IT graduate living with her family in Ulhasnagar, Thane district, was nabbed in a joint operation by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad and police. According to the police, Khan is well-qualified but mentally unstable. The Mumbai traffic police on Saturday received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number threatening that if Adityanath did not resign as Uttar Pradesh chief minister in 10 days, he would be killed like NCP leader Baba Siddique, who was gunned down last month. *—PTI*

PDP MLA moves resolution against Article 370 abrogation

Jammu & Kashmir Assembly saw chaos in its first session

SRINAGAR, 4 NOV

PDP MLA Waheed Para on Monday moved a resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly opposing the abrogation of Article 370 and calling for the restoration of special status to the erstwhile state, leading to noisy scenes in the House.

The Pulwama MLA moved the resolution immediately after veteran National Conference (NC) leader and seven-time MLA Abdul Rahim Rather was elected as the first speaker of the legislative assembly of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir

"Keeping the sentiments of the people of J&K in mind, this House opposes the revocation of the special status (of Jammu and Kashmir)," Para said as he moved the resolution.

This drew protests from BJP MLAs, all 28 of whom stood up to oppose the move.

BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma demanded Para's suspension for bringing the resolution in violation of Assembly rules.

RJD protest in Jammu on Monday against NC President Farooq Abdullah over his remarks that terrorists should be captured rather than killed in order to uncover Jammu and Kashmir terror attack masterminds **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

Rather repeatedly requested the protesting members to take their seats but in vain. He said the resolution has not come to him yet and when it does, he will examine it.

With the BJP members refusing to budge, NC MLAs lashed out at them for interrupting the proceedings of the House. Amid the din, NC MLA Shabir Kullay rushed into the well. The Centre abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, on 5 August, 2019.

Reacting against the resolution BJP chief Sat Paul Sharma slammed PDP claiming that "negative powers" are trying to spoil the peaceful environment in the valley.

Ruling NC says the move was aimed at circumventing the Jammu and Kashmir government's resolution on the issue. Meanwhile, Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha said that the newly elected government of the Union Territory "will make all efforts for the restoration of full statehood" and it would be a "befitting reciprocation" of the faith reposed by people.

In his maiden address to the first-ever legislative Assembly after the state was downgraded to a Union Territory, Sinha said the government is "fully geared up to realise" the hopes and expectations of people and "the aspiration for a return to the statehood remains strong".

Sinha recalled the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on several occasions on restoring statehood and said this has always been a source of rekindled hope and reassurance for the people. *—PTI*

KHALISTAN ROW

BJP, VHP vow 'tough steps' in Canada violence

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Gaurav Bhatia **PHOTO: PTI**

BJP and its government have always taken "tough steps" whenever it comes to the persecution of Hindus or infringement of their rights, the ruling party said here on Monday as India condemned the acts of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at a temple in Canada.

Protesters carrying Khalistani flags clashed with people at Brampton's Hindu Sabha Temple on Sunday, prompting the High Commission of India in Ottawa to issue a strong statement condemning the attack by the "anti-India" elements.

"We have seen how strongly and clearly a firm reply has been given to Canada while displaying India's strength," BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said at a press conference at the party headquarters in Delhi when asked about the incident. The Vishva Hindu Parishad said the "attack" on a Hindu temple in Canada was a cause of concern and alleged that the Indian consulate's prior request to the Canadian administration for providing security was "intentionally" ignored.

Congress said the acts of violence perpetrated by pro-Khalistani elements at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Canada's Brampton were "absolutely condemnable" and urged the government to take up the issue "very strongly" with the Canadian authorities.Punjab's ruling party AAP strongly condemned the attack saying the entire state is shocked. *—PTI*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during 'Vijay Sankalp Sabha' ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly elections, on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Congress will snatch reservation for tribals: Modi

RANCHI, 4 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused Congress of making attempts to snatch reservations meant for tribals and hand them over to its "vote bank".

Addressing an election rally in Chaibasa in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, he said he worships those who have been rejected by the others.

"Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar has ensured the provision of reservation to protect tribal rights but Nehru-ji had opposed it. The Gandhi family opposed reservation till they were in control of power post-Nehru. Now once again they have openly announced that they will scrap reservations for tribals. They will snatch tribal reservations and hand it over to their vote bank," he said.

He alleged that the JMM-led ruling coalition in the state has put tribal "identity, dignity and existence" at stake by "facilitating" Bangladeshi infiltrators to make fake documents.

"Infiltrators are snatching your daughters, grabbing land and devouring your bread," he said, claiming that efforts were being made to change Jharkhand's demography.

Soren's election proposer Mandal Murmu joins BJP

Mandal Murmu, one of the proposers of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's nomination from Barhait assembly constituency, joined the BJP, party leaders said on Monday.BJP has fielded Gamliyel Hembrom against Soren in Barhait. *—PTI*

Kolhapur North Cong candidate pulls out

MUMBAI, 4 NOV

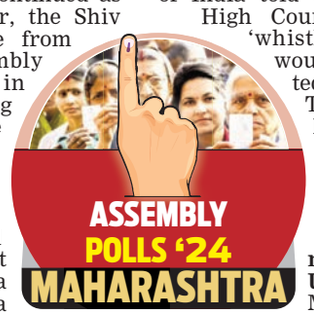
The end of the process to withdraw nominations for Maharashtra Assembly polls on Monday left the Congress in despair in Kolhapur North seat after its candidate Madhurima Raje Chhatrapati withdrew, while the BJP managed to convince Gopal Shetty to opt out from Mumbai's Borivali.

However, the headache for the Mahayuti continued as Dada Sarvankar, the Shiv Sena candidate from Mahim assembly constituency in Mumbai, braving the pressure from the party leadership, refused to pull out.

He is pitted against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray, who has the backing of the BJP, a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti along with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP.

Satej Patil expressed dismay at the decision which left the Congress without representation in one of its western Maharashtra strongholds.

The Election Commission of India told the Bombay High Court that the 'whistle' symbol would be allotted to Hitendra Thakur-led Bahujan Vikas Aghadi for the polls.



Madhurima Raje Chhatrapati is the daughter-in-law of Kolhapur Lok Sabha MP and royal family member Shahu Chhatrapati **PHOTO: X**

Jarange makes U-turn

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange said he will not support any contestant or party and asked his supporters who had filed nominations to withdraw their candidature.

The activist asserted he was not under any pressure from the ruling Mahayuti or the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi. *—PTI*

Pawan slams ally TDP over rising crimes

PITHAPURAM, 4 NOV

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Monday expressed concern over the law and order situation in the state and said if he was the state Home Minister, "things would be different", remarks seen as direct criticism of Vangalapudi Anitha, who is holding the department currently.

Addressing a public meeting at Gollaprolu in the Pithapuram constituency, Kalyan also asked Anitha to meet the public's expectations. Referring to UP CM Yogi Adityanath's model for law and order, Kalyan said, "These criminals should be dealt in the same fashion as Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh. Until then they will not listen. You are pushing us into that kind of situation." His comments came in response to recent law and order issues, particularly following the rape and murder of a four-year-old girl in Tirupati Anitha belongs to TDP, part of the ruling NDA alliance of BJP, TDP, and Janasena in Andhra Pradesh. *—PTI*

A file photo of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan with CM Chandrababu Naidu **PHOTO: PTI**

Stalin takes veiled jibe at actor Vijay's attack on DMK

CHENNAI, 4 NOV

In response to actor-turned-politician Vijay's allegations against DMK, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin stated on Monday that his party has performed well over the past four years and does not find it necessary to address such trivial matters.

Vijay's party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Sunday held its executive and district secretaries meeting and passed resolutions condemning BJP-led Union Government and the DMK-led State Government over various issues. 26 resolutions were passed in the meeting. They include those condemning the Centre's proposal for a 'One Nation One Election' and the DMK government's "poor" handling of law and order and state finances.

Stalin in an insinuation on Vijay's new party mentioned whoever starts new party says DMK should be destroyed but they are worried of those things.

Stalin also attended various public welfare events in his assembly constituency Kolathur this morning. *—PTI*

MK Stalin **PHOTO: ANI**

PROCEEDINGS 'BULLDOZED'

Oppn MPs to mull exit from Waqf panel over 'unilateral' functioning

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Opposition MPs in the parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill are scheduled to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday to protest its chairperson Jagdambika Pal's alleged "unilateral" decisions and attempts to "bulldoze" proceedings, indicating that they may disassociate themselves from the panel.

Claiming that they have been "stonewalled" during the committee's proceedings, opposition MPs have listed their grievances, including objections against the proposed law, in the letter addressed to Birla.

Opposition sources said they have prepared a joint letter --signed by a number of MPs, including Congress's Mohammad Jawed and Imran Masood, DMK's Raja, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, AAP's Sanjay Singh and TMC's Kalyan Banerjee -- that will be submitted it to the Speaker on Tuesday.

They accused Pal, a four-term MP representing the BJP, of taking "unilateral decisions" on fixing the dates of sittings -- which were at times for three consecutive days -- and whom to call witnesses.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee on 22 October smashed a glass water bottle and threw it towards panel chairperson Jagambika Pal, injuring himself at the JPC meeting on Waqf Amendment Bill **PHOTO: PTI**

With the Bill taking on distinct political hues and both the ruling BJP and the Opposition INDIA bloc firm on their stand in favour and against it respectively, the panel's meetings have often resembled a political battleground.

They have also recorded their strong reservations against the Bill, claiming that the government's step is nothing but a surreptitious attempt to mitigate the earlier legislations of 1995 and 2013, enacted by Parliament. *—PTI*

Blow to BJP as party leader Tyagi joins AAP

NDEW DELHI, 4 NOV

In another setback to BJP ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls, its leader and former municipal councillor BB Tyagi joined the Aam Aadmi Party on Monday.

This comes after three-time former MLA Brahm Singh Tanwar quit the party and joined the AAP alst week.

Tyagi, a former two-time municipal councillor and standing committee chairman of erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation, also contested the assembly polls in 2015 from Laxmi Nagar constituency on a BJP ticket.

Sources in the AAP claimed he could be fielded by the party from the Laxmi Nagar seat that is currently held by BJP.

Tyagi joined AAP in presence of senior leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and MLA Durgesh Pathak at the party headquarters.

Welcoming Tyagi into the AAP fold, Sisodia said he knew him as a leader with strong ground connect and added this kind of work was welcome in the party.

Assembly elections in Delhi are likely to be held in February next year. *—PTI*

MVA to name CM pick after polls: Ramesh

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Asserting that the Maharashtra Assembly polls were not a "kaun banega mukhyamantri" contest but a fight to form an MVA government, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday said the coalition's chief ministerial pick would be decided in a "smooth" manner after the results.

In an interview with PTI, he also said the Congress was confident of securing a decisive mandate in Jharkhand and Maharashtra but was "extra watchful" to avoid a repeat of any Haryana-like "last-minute mischief" by the BJP and the local administration. As the campaign heats up for the assembly polls in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, Ramesh dismissed suggestions that the momentum had shifted away from the INDIA bloc following the Congress' defeat in Haryana and said the alliance was confident of securing a decisive mandate in the two states.

Meanwhile, Congress party President Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that BJP's "anti-people" policies are "corroding" India's economy and challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak about real issues facing common people in his future election rallies, instead of "spewing lies" against the Opposition. *—PTI*

4 children suffocate to death after being locked in car

AMRELI, 4 NOV

Four children died of suffocation after getting locked inside a car while playing in Gujarat's Amreli, police said Monday. The incident took place at Randhiya village in the district on Saturday. The victims were children of a farm labourer couple hailing from Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. The parents left for work around 7.30 am, leaving their seven children behind. Four of the children entered the car of the farm owner parked near their house. The four victims, in the age group of 2 to 7 years, got locked from inside and died due to suffocation. When their parents and the car owner returned on Saturday, they found the bodies. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Two more die in Kerala temple fire accident

KASARAGOD, 4 NOV

Two more people have died from injuries suffered in the recent fireworks accident at a temple near Neeleswaram in this district, raising the death toll to four, officials said on Monday. Biju, 38, and Shibinraj, 19, who had been receiving treatment for severe burns at a private hospital in Kozhikode, died on Sunday. Earlier, two people had also died from injuries sustained in the accident. According to the Kasaragod district administration, 154 people were injured in the accident and of them, 100 were admitted in various hospitals. The incident occurred late on 28 October night at Anjoottanbalam Veererkavu temple near Neeleswaram when firecrackers stored in the vicinity exploded. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Paragliding WC: Man stranded in HP after crash

DHARAMSHALA, 4 NOV

A paraglider from Poland was stranded on a hill in Kangra of Himachal Pradesh after a mid-air collision with another paraglider during Paragliding World Cup (WC) 2024, officials said on Monday. Efforts are being made to rescue the paraglider, they said. Meanwhile, an Australian paraglider participating in the Paragliding World Cup 2024 in Bir Billing in Kangra district was knocked out of the competition after he suffered a sprain in his leg before takeoff on Sunday, according to the officials. A free-flying paraglider from Poland got stranded on a hill in Kangra on Sunday after colliding with another paraglider mid-air, the officials said.

PHOTO: XXX

4 electrocuted in Andhra while installing banner

TADIPARRU, 4 NOV

Four men were electrocuted here on Monday while tying a flexi banner around a social reformer's statue. The incident occurred at Tadiparru village in East Godavari district on Monday morning. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep sorrow over the death of four youngsters due to electrocution while making arrangements for the unveiling of social reformer Sardar Sarvarai Papanna Goud's statue, an official statement said. Naidu announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of the victims. —*PTI*

SC pulls up Delhi govt, top cop over lousy cracker ban

Toxic haze blankets Delhi on Monday as air quality dips

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Expressing serious concern over high pollution levels in Delhi during Deepavali festival, Supreme Court took exception to the violation of court orders and said its directives on firecrackers ban were "hardly implemented".

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih referred to newspaper reports mentioning a considerable violation of court orders and sought the Delhi government's response on "perpetual ban" on firecrackers in the national capital.

The top court asked the Delhi government and the police on the steps that were taken to implement the orders completely banning manufacture, sale and bursting of firecrackers in the national capital and the action they have taken against the violators.

"We are also issuing notice to the Delhi police commissioner on the action police has taken so far against the violators and the steps it is taking to implement the orders of the court," the bench said.

It directed the Delhi government and police commissioner to file their responses within a week saying, "there cannot be any dispute that the orders of the court banning firecrackers were hardly implemented".

"Firecracker bursting was the major cause of pollution during Deepavali and if the orders of the court are not implemented, it will be a chaotic situation," the bench told Additional Solicitor General Archana Pathak Dave, appearing for the Centre, and the counsel for Delhi government.

It posted the matter for further hearing on November 14 for compliance of its directions.

Referring to a report, the top court noted it was evident from the data that Deepavali in 2024 was warmer and pollution level was higher than in 2022 and 2023.

Emphasising the need to create public awareness ahead of Deepavali season, the bench said it is obvious that when there is a ban on sale of firecrackers, people will try to get it from other states.

"Some strict action is needed for those violating firecrackers ban like sealing of their premises," said the bench, adding that it would "do something" and create a mechanism in order to ensure that the court orders on the firecracker ban are not violated during Deepavali, 2025.

Meanwhile, Delhi was blanketed by a thick layer of smog on Monday morning with the air quality remaining on the higher end of the 'very poor' category.

The national capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 373 at 9 am, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. —*PTI*

The national capital's Air Quality Index stood at 373 at 9 am on Monday PHOTO: PTI

> **According to weather experts, with a dip in temperature, the wind pressure is low in the city, due to which the pollution level is rising. The government is actively working on it**
>
> -Gopal Rai, Environment Minister

BALASORE WORST HIT

A huge volume of standing crops and houses have been damaged in the cyclone PHOTO: PTI

Dana caused damage to properties worth ₹600 cr in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, 4 NOV

Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management minister Suresh Pujari on Monday said as per preliminary assessment severe cyclone Dana has caused damage to public and private properties worth around Rs 600 crore in the state.

'Dana' struck the eastern coast early on 25 October, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds uprooting trees and electric poles and causing significant damage to infrastructure and crops in 14 districts of Odisha.

He said that 166 blocks in 14 districts have been either partially or fully affected by the cyclone.

The districts are - Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Khurda, and Puri.

A huge volume of standing crops and houses have been damaged in the cyclone. Maximum volume of damage caused in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak and Kendrapara.

The Energy department has suffered severe damage while the Panchayati Raj department has yet to submit its damage report, he said. —*PTI*

The tiger's carcass was found at the same site from where the victim's body was recovered PHOTO: CANVA

Tiger stoned to death for killing R'than man

JAIPUR, 4 NOV

A 12-year-old tiger was allegedly stoned to death by villagers in Uliyana near Rajasthan's Ranthambore Tiger Reserve after they suspected him of having killed a local resident, officials said Monday.

The body of the tiger, identified as T-86, was found in Uliyana on Sunday afternoon, showing signs of assault, they said.

Injury marks on the animal's face suggested he was pelted with stones and attacked with sharp objects, such as axes, an official said, adding that an older wound indicated the big cat might have been injured in a fight with another tiger.

The wild animal's body was found at the same site from where the victim's body was recovered the previous day. —*PTI*

2 MP FOREST OFFICIALS FIRED AFTER DEATH OF 10 ELEPHANTS

BHOPAL, 4 NOV

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav suspended two senior officials of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) for lapses after a high-level probe team submitted its reports in the death of 10 elephants in the park.

The initial report doesn't point to any pesticide (in the food consumed by the elephants) or the role of "another side", Yadav on Sunday said, adding the autopsy report will come in two or three days.

BTR director Gaurav Choudhary and in-charge assistant conservator of forests Fateh Singh Ninama were placed under suspension. The reserve has drawn national attention following the deaths of the jumbos in 72 hours. "Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve director has been suspended for switching off his phone, not returning to work after leave and other reasons. ACF Fateh Singh Ninama has also been suspended," he told PTI.

Officials had earlier talked about toxicity along with huge quantities of kodo millets in the stomachs of the 10 elephants that died in the reserve. —*PTI*

SC relaxes scribe Kappan's bail term

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Supreme Court on Monday relaxed the bail condition imposed on Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan of reporting to a Uttar Pradesh police station every week in a UAPA case against him.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimhan and Sandeep Mehta relaxed the condition imposed by the top court on Kappan at the time of his bail in September, 2022.

Kappan was arrested in October, 2020 while on his way to UP's Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being sexually assaulted by a group of men.

The top court had on 17 September asked the state government to file its reply on Kappan's plea. The top court granted him bail after he had spent almost two years in prison and observed every person had the right to free expression.

Kappan was then saddled with several bail conditions, including the one directing him to remain in Delhi for the following six weeks after his release from prison and reporting to the Nizamuddin police station every Monday.

The case was registered against Kappan and three others under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly having links with the Popular Front of India (PFI).

Siddique Kappan PHOTO: PTI

The PFI had been accused in the past of funding protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act across the country and the police claimed that the accused persons had attempted to vitiate the law and order situation in Hathras.

The woman in question had died at a Delhi hospital a fortnight after her alleged rape by four men from her village on 14 September, 2020. —*PTI*

SC raps Centre on delay in Beant's convict mercy plea

Supreme Court on Monday said it would consider the mercy petition of death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, if the Centre does not decide on it "either way". The bench adjourned for two weeks the former Punjab Police constable's plea seeking commutation of his death sentence to life term due to an "inordinate delay" in deciding his mercy petition. On 3 May last year, the apex court had refused to commute his death sentence and said the competent authority could deal with his mercy plea. —*PTI*

SC to likely hear on bridge collapses in Bihar

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider listing for hearing a plea that raised concerns about the safety and longevity of bridges in Bihar after several of them collapsed in recent months.

The bench had sought responses from the Bihar gand others, including the National Highway Authorities of India (NHAI), on the public interest litigation (PIL). Ten incidents of bridge collapse have been reported in Bihar's Siwan, Saran, Madhubani, Araria, East Champaran and Kishanganj. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

HOMEBOUND FOR CHHATH

People travel by an overcrowded train to reach their hometowns ahead of Chhath Pooja, in Bihar's Patna, on Monday PHOTO: PTI

Nothing wrong in PM's visit to my home for pooja: CJI

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud on Monday said there was "nothing wrong" in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to his residence on Ganesha pooja and underscored the need for a "sense of maturity in political sphere" on such issues.

"The PM visited my residence for Ganesha pooja. There is absolutely nothing wrong as these are continuing meetings between the judiciary and the executive even at social level. We meet at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Republic Day, etc. We are in conversation with the prime minister and the ministers. This conversation does not involve the cases which we decide but life and society in general," Chandrachud said at an event organised by the Indian Express group.

The CJI said one had to respect that a dialogue took place as part of a robust inter-institutional mechanism and separation of powers between judiciary and the executive did not mean the two not meeting. On his statement that he prayed to God for the solution to the Ayodhya Ram Mandir dispute, Chandrachud shared he was a "person of faith" and equally respected all religions. —*PTI*

VIDEO GOES VIRAL

3 hang boy upside down, keep hot coal near head

PANDHURNA, 4 NOV

Three people were arrested in Madhya Pradesh's Pandhurna district after a video of them hanging a minor boy upside down and placing hot coal near his head surfaced on social media, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred on Sunday in Mohgaon, around 30 km from the district headquarters, they said.

The viral video shows a boy hanging upside down with hands tied with a rope and crying loudly, and later, a tray of hot coal is placed near his head. A man is also seen tying another boy in the video.

In the video, people are heard accusing the boy of stealing a watch and other items.

PHOTO: PTI

Meanwhile, former chief minister Kamal Nath condemned the incident.

In a post on X, Nath wrote, "A video has surfaced of a small child being hung upside down and beaten and then two children being forced to inhale chilli smoke. This incident is highly condemnable. There is no place for such acts in a civilized society. I demand the local administration to take strict action against all the culprits in this case." The Congress leader said he is requesting the people of Pandhurna and the entire Madhya Pradesh that losing patience in such small matters and punishing children so brutally is dangerous. "If a crime is committed, action should be taken according to the law and not by taking the law in one's hands and behaving brutally with children. Such incidents of torturing children bring down our region's respect in the society," he tweeted. —*PTI*

Sanjay charged with rape, murder in RG Kar case

KOLKATA, 4 NOV

Eighty-seven days after the body of a woman medic was found at state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, a Kolkata court on Monday framed charges against the prime accused, Sanjay Roy.

The court announced that day-to-day trial in the case would commence from 11 November.

Roy has been booked under Section 64 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (rape), Section 66 (punishment for causing death or resulting in a persistent vegetative state) and 103 (punishment for murder).

"I have done nothing. I have been framed in this rape-murder case. Nobody is listening to me. The government is framing me and threatening me not to open my mouth," Roy told reporters as he was led out of the Sealdah court.

Roy was arrested by the Kolkata Police on 10 August, a day after the on-duty woman doctor's body was found inside the seminar room of the RG Kar hospital.

In its charge sheet submitted last month, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) identified Roy as the "sole prime accused" in the case.

Meanwhile, during the hearing in the corruption case in the same hospital, the central agency told a special CBI court in Alipur here that there was a "deep conspiracy" behind the crime. —*PTI*

Telangana: B'luru man stabs teen for rejecting proposal

HYDERABAD, 4 NOV

A 19-year-old college student was hospitalised, with injuries to her hand after a youth she had befriended her online, allegedly attacked her with a knife, in Medak district on Monday, for rejecting his romantic proposal, police said.

The incident took place when the first-year college student, from an open university came to take an exam at the Government Degree College. The accused, from Bengaluru, reportedly argued with her near the college before attacking her with a knife and fleeing the scene. The student, who sustained injuries, was admitted to a hospital. She stated that the accused approached her, expressed his feelings, and, upon her rejection, "attacked" her with a knife. —*PTI*

'DONALD BHAIYA ZINDABAD'

A group of Hindu priests in New Delhi held prayers for US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Sunday hoping that he will succeed and win in this week's elections. "Donald Trump is the only leader who can bring world peace," said Hindu priest Swami Vedmurstinand Saraswati, who performed the ceremony
PHOTO: ANI/SCREENGRAB

What Kamala & Trump need to win US polls

On election eve in the United States, the presidential race is deadlocked. The polls are exceptionally close across the country and in all the swing states – Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin in the industrial midwest; Nevada and Arizona in the west; and Georgia and North Carolina in the south.

The final New York Times/ Siena poll shows Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris leading by a very small margin or tied with Republican former President Donald Trump in all the swing states. The exception is Arizona, where Trump leads by a few percentage points.

While there is no clear favourite to win, there are several critical factors that will driving voters' decisions on Election Day. This is what to watch.

The final New York Times/Siena poll shows Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris leading by a very small margin or tied with Republican former President Donald Trump in all the swing states ***PHOTO: PTI***

Republicans turning against Trump

Trump's favourability is stuck around 43 per cent in nationwide polling. In the past two presidential elections, he fell short of taking 50 per cent of the national popular vote. As president, he never achieved over 50 per cent favourability. And he has never topped 50 per cent since leaving office.

This means he has hit a ceiling in his support and is highly unlikely to win the national popular vote on Tuesday.

Where will these Republican voters ultimately land on Tuesday? Probably half want to vote Republican and will go with Trump. Others will not being able to bring themselves to vote for Harris and will simply not vote for president.

Others will switch their support to Harris. Indeed, there has never been such a swelling of support from members of one party to support the other party's presidential candidate.

Harris needs those "Republicans for Harris" votes. In addition, she'll need to replicate the coalition of young voters, voters of colour and women who backed current President Joe Biden against Trump in 2020 in those same swing states and nationally.

Her favourability ratings are higher than Trump, at around 46 per cent. The closer a presidential candidate is to 50 per cent approval ratings, the better their chance of winning the election.

There are four key issues in this election. The most important is the hip pocket issue: household budgets, cost of living pressures and voters' concerns about their future economic security.

Since Biden and Harris took office nearly four years ago, the cost of groceries, household items, utilities and services such as insurance have risen between 10–40 per cent. Petrol prices have gone up even more.

Though interest rates have fallen, American households are hurting. When asked who is best to manage the economy, voters in swing states say Trump by a 15-point margin.

The next-biggest issue is immigration. Since Trump first became a presidential candidate in 2015, he has relentlessly pushed the immigration button, declaring the border with Mexico is out of control, with crime and pillage rising in its wake.

Voters view Trump as best placed to manage this issue, too, by nearly 15 points.

So, Trump is seen as a more effective leader on the two most important policy issues in this election.

Abortion rights and reproductive health services are the third major issue. Many women across America are repelled by the Supreme Court's decision to take away their long-held constitutional right to an abortion. Now, this policy is decided at the state level. And several conservative Republican states – including Ohio and Kansas – have voted to restore abortion rights.

As a result, polling shows Harris is leading Trump with women voters in the swing states, by 15 points or more.

So, who is going to win?

Trump's team sees victory in all the polls. His chief pollster wrote late last week:

President Trump's position nationally and in every single battleground state is significantly better than it was four years ago.

The polls may also be undercounting the full measure of Trump's support, as was the case in 2016 and 2020. And the polls may not be reflecting the extent of antipathy towards Harris as a Black and south Asian woman.

Harris has built a USD 1 billion (AUSD 1.5 billion) machine designed to reach voters in the swing states – through personal contact. This machine made three million phone calls and door knocks on homes in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin alone on Saturday. If this machine delivers, it could be the boost Harris needs on election night.

The final analysis

If Harris wins, it will be because she has successfully sealed the deal with those voters and made the election a referendum on Trump – that on balance the country has had enough of him after eight years. It also means her ground game delivered the votes.

If Trump wins, it will mean voters trusted him to manage inflation and the cost-of-living squeeze on households, as well as what they see as out-of-control immigration and crime. These messages would also have been further embellished by unease about Harris, a Black and south Asian woman, as president. *—PTI*

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

'PM2.5 pollution causes poor learning in children'

Exposure to ammonium nitrate, a key component of PM2.5 pollution and a product of agricultural emissions, has been found to affect learning ability and memory in children, according to a new study.

The chemical is formed when ammonia gas - released from agricultural activities - reacts with nitric acid produced after burning fossil fuels.

Previous studies have found ammonium nitrate to heighten risk of ageing-related conditions such as Alzheimer's and dementia - in which cognition and memory is affected, suggesting that long-term exposure to PM2.5 can cause neurocognitive harm across one's lifespan.

A critical measure of air quality, PM2.5 is a mixture of dust, soot, organic compounds and metals, a particle of which is below 2.5 micrometres in diameter. It is known to travel deep into the lungs, from where it can enter the bloodstream and then pass through the highly selective blood-brain barrier, thereby causing serious health problems.

In a 2020 study, a team including researchers from the University of Southern California (USC), US, looked at PM2.5 as a whole and found no potential impact on children's cognition.

However, this study, conducted by the same team and published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, analysed 15 chemicals constituting PM2.5 and thus, ammonium nitrate emerged as a "prime suspect".

A critical measure of air quality, PM2.5 is a mixture of dust, soot, organic compounds and metals ***PHOTO: ANI***

Based on residential addresses of nearly 8,600 children, aged 9-11 years, from across the country, the researchers used spatio-temporal models to analyse yearly levels of exposure to PM2.5 components.

"No matter how we examined it, on its own or with other pollutants, the most robust finding was that ammonium nitrate particles were linked to poorer learning and memory. That suggests that overall PM2.5 is one thing, but for cognition, it's a mixture effect of what you're exposed to," study author Megan Herting, a professor of population and public health sciences at USC, said.

Further, "understanding these nuances is crucial for informing air quality regulations and understanding long-term neurocognitive effects," Herting said.

The study added to mounting evidence that has shown PM2.5 pollution to be detrimental to memory and cognition for people of all ages.

"Mixture modelling revealed cumulative negative associations between chemical components of PM2.5 and children's cognitive performance across all three cognitive domains, with the greatest contributions from ammonium, nitrates, potassium, silicon, and calcium," the authors wrote.

"Building upon a decade of research suggesting that PM2.5 exposure is detrimental to cognition, this work links childhood exposure to PM2.5 source mixtures to individual differences in cognition at 9-10 years of age," they wrote.

This study's participants came from the ongoing Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study, tracking brain development and mental health of nearly 12,000 children and adolescents across the US. *—PTI*

Long-term exposure to PM2.5 can cause neurocognitive harm across one's lifespan ***PHOTO: PTI***

Khalistan movement: Activists see it as freedom; India calls it terrorism

Canadian and US accusations of assassination plots have drawn attention to the Sikh separatist movement, which India calls a source of organised crime.

In the months since Canada and the United States accused India of carrying out assassination plots against Sikh separatist leaders on North American soil, a lingering question has hung over the accusations: Why would the Indian government take such a risk?

Inside India, the Sikh cause to carve out a land called Khalistan from Punjab largely fizzled out decades ago. Yet the Indian government still frames the Khalistan movement as a threat to national security — for reasons more mundane but no easier to weed out.

India has repeatedly accused Khalistan-related activists in countries like Pakistan and, more recently, Canada of sponsoring gang warfare, drug trafficking and extortion in India. Proceeds from these crimes, according to India's government, sustain a campaign of what Indian officials call terrorism in the name of a religious political movement.

Indian government defines terrorism broadly, to include any actions it sees as imperiling the country's security by sowing discord or instability. India has long taken a no-holds-barred approach to stamping out movements it considers a terrorist threat, including the Khalistan cause, as well as left-wing and Indigenous insurgencies.

In recent years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led the charge in portraying the Khalistan threat as a national security matter, analysts say.

India has forcefully rejected Canada's accusation that Indian agents killed a Canadian Sikh nationalist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, on Canadian soil.

But a top Canadian official said in Parliament that a campaign to intimidate, harass and even kill Sikh separatists in Canada could be traced to the highest levels of the Indian government.

The official said he had confirmed to The Washington Post that the Canadian government believed that the campaign was ordered by Amit Shah, who leads Ministry of Home Affairs and is Modi's right-hand man. The official did not say what evidence Canada had.

The Indian government has conveyed to Canadian officials that it 'protests in the strongest terms to the absurd and baseless references' made to Shah.

India has repeatedly accused Khalistan-related activists in countries like Pakistan and, more recently, Canada of sponsoring gang warfare, drug trafficking and extortion in India ***PHOTO: PTI***

Last month, Canadian officials said that several Indian diplomats in Canada were agents of India's foreign intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, or RAW, and ran the campaign of intimidation and violence. Canada expelled six diplomats, and India responded in kind.

India's government has been much quieter as the United States has pursued a similar case involving a foiled assassination attempt against a Sikh separatist named Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. The US government has charged an Indian citizen who it says was a RAW agent, accusing him of directing the plot.

"India's attempt on my life on US soil represents a brazen act of transnational terrorism," Pannun said in a statement. "It's a stark reminder that while pro-Khalistan Sikhs believe in ballots, India's government resorts to bullets."

The Canadian and US cases have provided the push for an independent Khalistan more attention than it would otherwise get, given that it is largely driven by a small part of the Sikh diaspora, Sahni, the counterterrorism expert, said.

In the past, Sikhs in Punjab have demanded a homeland alongside Muslim-majority Pakistan and Hindu-majority India, calling it a matter of justice.

The separatist cause peaked in the 1980s. In 1984, Sikh militants occupied the Golden Temple in Punjab, one of Sikhism's holiest sites, prompting a bloody operation by Indian government forces to remove them. Five months later, Sikh bodyguards assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in revenge.

Although Sikh militancy in India was stamped out by the 1990s, a separatist movement remained in pockets around the world. Canada is among the countries where many Khalistan supporters have found a home, and India has angrily accused the Canadian government of allowing Sikh extremists and alleged criminals to operate freely from inside its territory.

While it is India's foreign intelligence agency that has been linked by Canada and the United States to assassination plots, India's National Investigation Agency — a domestic counterterrorism law enforcement agency — has also long focused on Khalistan figures.

Nijjar, the Sikh leader killed in Canada, who was also on India's terrorist list, was accused of directing extortion schemes and other gang-related activities.

Another factor that makes Sikh separatism a sensitive issue is its connection to Pakistan, India's archnemesis. Pakistan has aided the Khalistan movement as a way to seed instability in India, analysts say. Some see the presence of pro-Khalistan groups like Babbar Khalsa International, banned in India but with members in Pakistan, as part of a Pakistani strategy known informally in the counterterrorism community as "death by a thousand cuts."

While the Khalistan cause is largely seen in India as a fringe movement with ties to the drug trade, there is some concern among Indian state and federal officials about so-called radicalization of Punjabi youths.

Punjab was once among India's most prosperous states. But the remnants of the 1980s conflict, combined with failed economic policies and shrinking job opportunities, have unleashed a slow-burning crisis in the state.

Widespread drug addiction is one of the biggest challenges. Although Punjab is listed as India's 15th-largest state, it accounts for the third-highest number of drug-related cases, according to government officials.

In such a tinderbox, the Khalistan movement could find more fertile ground among vulnerable and jobless young men, analysts said.

—Courtesy, New York Times

PHOTO: X @THEINFORMANT_X

Japan launches defence satellite with new H3 rocket

TOKYO, 4 NOV

Japan launched a defence satellite designed for information-gathering and military operations on a new flagship H3 rocket on Monday, as the country seeks to build up its military capability amid growing tension in the region. The H3 No. 4 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center on a southwestern Japanese island. Everything went as planned and the satellite placed at the top of the rocket was successfully separated about half an hour after liftoff, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said in a livestream. The rocket is carrying a Defense Ministry satellite, Kirameki No. 3, which uses X-band communication for military operations and reconnaissance, including information-gathering for signs of North Korean missile activity. *—PTI*

Iran executes Jewish citizen for murder

TEHRAN, 4 NOV

Iran on Monday executed a Jewish citizen convicted of murdering another man in 2022 following a personal dispute, reports said. It was a rare case of an execution of member of a religious minority in the predominately Muslim nation. Mizanonline.ir, a website affiliated with Iran's judiciary, said 23-year-old Arvin Ghahremani was put to death after the country's Supreme Court affirmed the capital punishment handed down in the case earlier last year. The report quoted Hamid Reza Karimi, the prosecutor of Kermanshah city, as saying the court and the convicted man's lawyers and relatives had failed to convince the victim's family to abstain from qisas — an act under Islamic penal code that calls for similar punishment, or an "eye for an eye" — and effectively pardon his killer. *—PTI*

Boeing to vote on new contract offer today

WASHINGTON DC, 4 NOV

Unionised factory workers at Boeing are voting Monday whether to accept a contract offer or to continue their strike, which has lasted more than seven weeks and shut down production of most Boeing passenger planes. A vote to ratify the contract would clear the way for the aerospace giant to resume airplane production and bring in much-needed cash. If members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers vote for a third time to reject Boeing's offer, it would plunge the company into further financial peril and uncertainty. In its latest proposed contract, Boeing is offering pay raises of 38 per cent over four years, as well as ratification and productivity bonuses. *—PTI*

Turkiye ousts 3 pro-Kurdish mayors

ANKARA, 4 NOV

Turkiye on Monday removed three elected pro-Kurdish mayors from office over terrorism-related charges and replaced them with state-appointed officials, the Interior Ministry said. The move, which comes days after the arrest and ouster from office of a mayor from the country's main opposition party for his alleged links to a banned Kurdish militant group, is seen as a hardening of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government's policies toward the opposition. It also raises questions about the prospects of a tentative new peace effort to end a 40-year conflict between the militant group and the state that has led to tens of thousands of deaths. *—PTI*

Shouldn't have left White House: Trump

He calls Democratic party 'corrupt machine'

WASHINGTON, 4 NOV

The US will on Tuesday vote to elect its 47th President in a fierce race between Republican nominee Donald Trump and Democratic leader Kamala Harris that is set to go down in history as one of the tightest fights for the White House in decades.

As the countdown for election day began, Former President Trump raked up the bitter memories of the 2020 election as said he "shouldn't have left" the White House, triggering apprehensions that he was preparing the ground to not accept the outcome of the 5 November voting if he loses the contest.

"I shouldn't have left. I mean, honestly, because... we did so well," the former President said at a rally in Lititz, Pennsylvania.

Following the election that brought Joe Biden to power, Trump alleged fraud in the voting process and challenged the outcome in courts which rejected his claims.

CAPTION
PHOTO: X

In her closing remarks in the key battleground state of Michigan, Harris said she would be a president for all Americans and spoke about the need to turn the page on "hate and division" while Trump continued his tirade against his Democratic rival.

"It is going to be one of the most consequential elections of our lifetime and we have momentum on our side, can you feel it," Vice President Harris said in her rally in Michigan.

"This year has been difficult, given the scale of death and destruction in Gaza and given the civilian casualties and displacement in Lebanon," she said, adding "It is devastating."

Trump also targeted Harris and accused the Democratic Party of being a "corrupt machine".

"It's all corrupt. She is corrupt. She is a corrupt person. I am running against a totally corrupt person," he alleged. *—PTI*

Kamala promises to end Gaza war

She also vows to secure Palestinian rights

WASHINGTON DC, 4 NOV

In her closing pitch for the presidency of the United States, Democrat aspirant Kamala Harris has promised to end the war in Gaza.

Campaigning in the swing state of Michigan, home to many Arab Americans, Harris, 60, on Sunday tried to reach voters disgruntled by the ongoing genocide, which has killed more than 43,000 Palestinians and displaced almost the entire 2.3 million residents of Gaza.

"This year has been difficult, given the scale of death and destruction in Gaza and given the civilian casualties and displacement in Lebanon, it is devastating. And as president, I will do everything in my power to end the war in Gaza, to bring home the hostages, end the suffering in Gaza, ensure Israel is secure, and ensure the Palestinian people can realise their right to dignity, freedom, security and self-determination," Harris said to applause during a rally in East Lansing city of Michigan, home to 200,000 Arab Americans. She did not elaborate on how she planned to end the Gaza war, which critics say is backed by the US, the largest military supplier to Israel. Harris, who has also promised to continue arming Israel if elected, badly needs to secure a majority in the seven pivotal battleground states in this year's election amid a virtual dead heat with Trump nationally. A compilation of opinion polls by the RealClearPolitics website has Trump ahead by just 0.1 percent nationally, with five polls indicating they are locked in a tie.

CAPTION
PHOTO: X

Ahead of Election Day, more than 78 million Americans have already cast early ballots, including about 700,000 more Democrats than Republicans.

—Al-Jazeera

Israel ends Gaza aid pact with UN agency

JERUSALEM, 4 NOV

Israel said on Monday it had terminated the agreement facilitating the work of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, the main aid provider in Gaza, in what appeared to be a step to implement legislation passed last month that would sever ties with the agency and prevent it from operating in Israel. Israel says the agency, known as UNRWA, has been infiltrated by Hamas. UNRWA denies the allegations and says it takes measures to ensure its neutrality.

On Sunday, Israel said its troops had carried out a ground raid into Syria to seize a Syrian it accuses of working with Iran. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Despite growing pressure from the United States and others in the international community for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, intensified Israeli strikes against the Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas. Israel is also fighting a seemingly endless war against Hamas in northern Gaza.

PHOTO: X

Meanwhile, an Iranian-American journalist who once worked for a US government-funded broadcaster is believed to have been detained by Iran for months now, authorities said Sunday, further raising the stakes as Tehran threatens to retaliate over an Israeli attack on the country. *—PTI*

German envoy visits Kyiv on US polls eve

KYIV, 4 NOV

Germany's top diplomat arrived Monday in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on an unannounced visit, in what appeared to be a show of European support for Ukraine on the eve of a US presidential election that could bring far-reaching changes in Washington's policy toward Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbour.

Germany is Ukraine's second biggest weapons supplier after the US, and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock vowed that Berlin's backing would remain steadfast.

"Together with many partners around the world, Germany stands firmly by Ukraine's side," she said, German news agency dpa reported. "We will support the Ukrainians for as long as they need us so that they can continue on their path to a just peace."

The war is at a critical moment for Ukraine, with the Russian army making creeping gains on the battlefield and another hard winter ahead after Russia relentlessly battered the Ukrainian power grid.

Ahead of the US vote, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attempted to lock Ukraine's Western supporters into a long-term "victory plan," including a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia, but the response was disappointing for Kyiv officials. Russia is using its superior numbers to heap pressure on Ukrainian positions along the front line. Ukraine's top commander, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, said Saturday his troops are struggling to hold back "one of the most powerful (Russian) offensives" of the war. *—PTI*

Japan's reactor restarts after 13 years, shuts again

TOKYO, 4 NOV

A Japanese nuclear reactor that restarted last week for the first time in more than 13 years after it had survived a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami that badly damaged the nearby Fukushima nuclear plant was shut down again Monday due to an equipment problem, its operator said.

It was operating and there was no release of radiation into the environment, Tohoku Electric said. *—PTI*

S Korea, EU condemn N Korean troops in Russia

- North Korea's troop deployment threatens to expand 3-year-long war and is causing security jitters in South, where many worry Russia might reward the North by giving it weapons

SEOUL, 4 NOV

Top South Korean and European Union officials on Monday strongly condemned North Korea's reported troop dispatch to aid Russia's war against Ukraine and agreed to work together to try to block deepening military cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang.

North Korea's alleged troop deployment threatens to expand the almost 3-year-long war and is causing security jitters in South Korea, where many worry Russia might reward the North by giving it sophisticated weapons technology or offering a defence commitment in the event of a conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

In a meeting in Seoul, South Korean Defence Minister Kim Yong Hyun and the EU's visiting foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, expressed "serious concerns" about North Korea's reported troop dispatch and "strongly condemned" it, according to a statement from the South Korean Defense Ministry.

The US government said Thursday that about 8,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia near Ukraine's border and preparing to join Russia's fight against Ukraine in the coming days. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday urged allies to stop just "watching" and take steps before North Korean troops deployed in Russia reach the battlefield. According to US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, North Korea was estimated to have moved about 10,000-12,000 troops to Russia. If they start fighting against Ukraine forces, it would mark North Korea's first participation in a large-scale conflict since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X@RAPID_REVEAL

Volcanic eruption in Indonesia kills 10 people

MAUMERE, 4 NOV

Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least ten people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions widens on the remote island of Flores.

The eruption at Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki just after midnight on Monday spewed thick brownish ash as high as 2,000m into the air and hot ashes hit a nearby village, burning down several houses. Authorities also raised the danger level and widened the danger zone for Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki on Monday, following a series of eruptions that began last week. *—PTI*

Chinese astronauts return to earth after 6 months

BEIJING, 4 NOV

Three Chinese astronauts who spent six months developing China's low orbit space station returned to Earth safely early Monday, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said.

After staying in orbit for 192 days, they were all in good health and the Shenzhou-18 manned mission was a success. Ye, the Shenzhou-18 mission commander, has become the first Chinese astronaut with an accumulative spaceflight time of more than a year, setting record for longest duration of stay in orbit by a Chinese astronaut. *—PTI*

Lahore shuts schools due to pollution

LAHORE, 4 NOV

Dangerously poor air quality on Monday forced Pakistani authorities in the cultural capital of Lahore to close primary schools for a week, government officials said, after the air-quality index hit a record high over the weekend.

The measures in Lahore were part of a larger effort to protect children from respiratory-related and other diseases in the city of 14 million people. The government said everyone in Lahore was required to wear a face mask.

Fifty per cent of employees must also work from home as part of a "green lockdown" in the city, the government said, adding that barbecuing food without filters was banned and motorised rickshaws restricted. Wedding halls must close at 10pm and artificial rain is likely to be used to combat the pollution.

A teacher and students wear mask to protect themselves from poor air quality in Lahore PHOTO: PTI

The air-quality index in Lahore exceeded 1,000 over the weekend, a record high in Pakistan.

Toxic grey smog has sickened tens of thousands of people, mainly children and elderly people, since last month when the air quality started worsening in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province bordering India. *—PTI*

TITAN OF MUSIC INDUSTRY

Quincy Jones, Sinatra and MJ's music producer, dies at 91

LOS ANGELES, 4 NOV

Quincy Jones, the multi-talented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91.

Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died on Sunday night at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family.

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and amassing an extraordinary musical catalogue that includes some of the richest moments of American rhythm and song.

Quincy Jones and Frank Sinatra recording in 1964; Jones with Michael Jackson in the studio during the recording of the Bad album PHOTO: X

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Bill Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World," the 1985 charity record for famine relief in Africa.

In a career which began when records were still played on vinyl at 78 rpm, top honours likely go to his productions with Jackson: "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad" were albums near-universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination helped set off the explosive talents of Jackson as he transformed from child star to the "King of Pop." On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Don't Stop Til You Get Enough," Jones and Jackson fashioned a global soundscape out of disco, funk, rock, pop, R&B and jazz and African chants.

The list of his honours and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q", including 27 Grammys at the time (now 28), an honorary Academy Award (now two) and an Emmy for "Roots." He also received France's Legion d'Honneur, the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy and a Kennedy Centre tribute for his contributions to American culture. *—PTI*

PHOTO:PIXABAY

Gold drops ₹1,300; silver plummets ₹4,600

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Gold prices retreated from record high in the national capital on Monday, declining Rs 1,300 to Rs 81,100 per 10 grams following fresh selling by stockists and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had traded flat at Rs 82,400 per 10 grams -- its all-time high -- on Thursday. Silver also remained under selling pressure and slipped below the Rs 95,000-mark, depreciating Rs 4,600 to Rs 94,900 per kg. It had closed at Rs 99,500 per kg on Thursday. Prices of gold of 99.5 per cent purity decreased Rs 1,300 to Rs 80,700 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 82,000 per 10 grams -- its all time high -- in the previous session on Thursday. Last week, the yellow metal had hit a lifetime high of Rs 79,775 per 10 grams. *—PTI*

Govt invites applications for RBI Deputy Governor

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

The Finance Ministry has invited applications for the post of RBI Deputy Governor in the place of Michael Debabrata Patra, whose extended term is coming to an end on 14 January, 2025. This position of RBI Deputy Governor is for economists. As per the eligibility criteria mentioned in the public announcement, applicants should have at least 25 years of work experience in Public Administration including experience at the level of Secretary or equivalent in the Government of India; or have at least 25 years of work experience in an Indian or International Public Financial Institution. Besides, it said, the candidates should not be more than 60 years of age as on 15 January 2025. The appointment is for a period of three years. *—PTI*

Welspun gets ₹1,300 cr pipe supply order in US

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Homegrown Welspun Corp Ltd (WCL) on Monday said it has bagged two new orders in the US worth Rs 1,300 crore for supplying specialised pipes for natural gas pipeline projects. It aims to execute the order for Helical Submerged Arc Welded (HSAW) pipes in the financial year 2025-26, the company said in an exchange filing. "Our outlook for the USA market remains extremely positive. We have also participated in a few more projects and are favourably placed in additional 1-2 large projects," the company said. Part of USD 5 billion Welspun World, Welspun Corp is primarily engaged in the business of manufacture and distribution of steel and steel products. *—PTI*

NTPC, ONGC join forces to work in renewable energy

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Power giant NTPC and oil major ONGC on Monday announced that they have joined hands to explore opportunities in the area of new and renewable energy. The two entities will form a joint venture through their respective subsidiaries, NTPC said in a statement. NGEL has also submitted an application to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the incorporation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company with OGL, the statement said. The JV will venture into various renewable energy (RE) and new energy opportunities, including solar, wind, energy storage, e-mobility, carbon credits and green credits. It will also seek opportunities to acquire renewable energy assets and consider participation in upcoming offshore wind tenders in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. *—PTI*

In India's biggest, Reliance Jio eyes $100B IPO in 2025

Jio faces potential competition from Elon Musk's Starlink

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani is targeting to list the group's telecom business, Jio, next year, Reuters reported on Monday citing two people in the know.

According to the news report, Jio is valued by analysts at over USD 100 billion.

The report asserted that the conglomerate plans to launch its retail unit's IPO "much later".

The report added that Reliance Industries' chief Ambani hasn't updated his IPO timelines after saying in 2019 that Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail would "move towards" a listing within five years.

The two sources told Reuters that Reliance has now firmed up plans to launch the Reliance Jio IPO in 2025 as it internally believes it has achieved a stable business and revenue stream in becoming India's No. 1 telecom player.

But the retail business IPO is not expected until after 2025, Reuters reported, quoting one of the sources.

As per the report, Reliance Industries did not respond to a request for comment.

Quoting Jefferies' July report, Reuters reported that the company's estimated IPO valuation was at USD 112 billion. Taking opportunities in India's booming stock market, many companies intended to list their shares, and a sizable number of them have made handsome gains.

Initial public offering (IPO) refers to the process where companies sell their shares to the public to raise equity capital from the investors.

However, Ambani's expansion in India's telecommunications landscape faces fresh challenges. Jio recently encountered competition from Elon Musk's Starlink, which could affect market dynamics if the satellite service enters India. Additionally, Ambani has joined hands with Nvidia to develop AI infrastructure, a move signaling his intent to remain at the technological forefront.

In its latest quarterly report, Jio disclosed strong growth, with its 5G subscriber base rising from 130 million to 147 million, and average revenue per user (ARPU) climbing from Rs 181.7 to Rs 195.1. *—ANI*

The report asserted that the conglomerate plans to launch its retail unit's IPO 'much later' ***PHOTO: X***

Niva Bupa eyes ₹2,200 cr via IPO

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd, formerly Max Bupa Health Insurance Company, on Monday said it has fixed a price band of Rs 70-74 per share for its Rs 2,200 crore initial share sale. Initial Public Offering (IPO) will open for public subscription on 7 November and conclude on 11 November. The bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on 6 November, the company announced.

IPO is a combination of fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 800 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 1,400 crore by promoters. The company reduced the issue size as it was earlier looking to raise Rs 3,000 crore.

At present, Bupa Singapore Holdings Pte owns 62.19 per cent stake while Fettle Tone LLP holds 26.8 per cent stake in the insurance firm. The company said that 75 per cent of the issue size has been reserved for qualified institutional buyers, 15 for non-institutional buyers. *—PTI*

NOW AT 84.07

Rupee falls 4P to hit all-time low against US dollar

MUMBAI, 4 NOV

The rupee on Monday fell 4 paise to a record low of 84.11 (provisional) against the US dollar, tracking a weak trend in domestic equities and relentless foreign capital outflows.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee touched new all-time lows weighed down by negative domestic markets which fell nearly 1.18 per cent. A recovery in crude oil prices and FII outflows also dented investor sentiments.

However, the softening of the US dollar prevented a sharp fall.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.07 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency oscillated between a high of 84.06 and a low of 84.12. It finally settled at its all-time low of 84.11 (provisional), a loss of 4 paise from its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee edged up 1 paisa to 84.07 against the US dollar. The forex market remained closed on Friday for Deepavali.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.52 per cent to 103.73 points.

US dollar declined on disappointing non-farm payrolls report and ISM manufacturing PMI data from the US on Friday. The US added only 12,000 jobs in October 2024 versus forecast of 106,000 jobs while ISM manufacturing PMI fell to 46.5 in October, falling short of expectations of 47.6. *— PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

- Forex traders said the Indian rupee touched new all-time lows weighed down by negative domestic markets which fell nearly 1.18 per cent

Maruti Suzuki passenger car production down 16%

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India cut production of its passenger cars by 16 per cent last month but increased those of utility vehicles by 33 per cent compared to October 2023, according to a regulatory filing by the company.

Its passenger cars production stood at 89,174 units last month against 1,06,190 units in October 2023.

Ashok Leyland total sales fell 9% to 15,310 units

Commercial vehicle maker and Hinduja Group flagship firm Ashok Leyland on Monday said its total vehicle sales declined 9 per cent to 15,310 units in October.

It had sold a total of 16,864 vehicles in the year-ago period.

Total domestic sales (M&HCVs plus LCVs) fell 11 per cent to 14,067 vehicles in October 2024 against 15,759 units a year ago, it said.

Bajaj Auto reports 2% rise in total vehicle sales

Bajaj Auto on Monday reported a 2 per cent increase in total vehicle sales, including commercial vehicles and exports, at 4,79,707 units in October this year, from 4,71,188 units in the same month of 2023.

During the reporting month, the total domestic sales were down 8 per cent at 3,03,831 units, as compared to 3,29,618 vehicles sold in the same month of 2023, while exports stood at 1,75,876 units, up 24 per cent, from 1,41,570 units a year-ago, Bajaj Auto Ltd said.

Hero MotoCorp festive period sales up 13%

Two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Monday reported a 13 per cent rise in sales during the festive period this year at 15.98 lakh units, as compared to the year-ago period. The company achieved its highest-ever retail sales during the 32-day festive, starting from Navratri. *—PTI*

Fitch affirms IIFL's rating after RBI lifts ban on loan biz

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Fitch Ratings on Monday affirmed IIFL Finance's ratings with a stable outlook, saying that after the lifting of the ban on new gold-backed lending imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the firm's franchise will gradually stabilise.

The RBI in September, had lifted regulatory restrictions it had imposed in March on IIFL Finance's gold-backed lending business.

Fitch Ratings has affirmed India-based IIFL Finance Ltd's long-term issuer default rating (IDR) and medium-term note programme rating at 'B+', and removed the ratings from 'Rating Watch Negative'. The outlook on the IDR is stable.

The affirmation and stable outlook reflect expectation that IIFL Finance's franchise will gradually stabilise after the lifting of the ban. *—PTI*

India's manufacturing sector regains growth momentum: PMI

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

India's manufacturing sector growth recovered from September's eight-month low to 57.5 in October fuelled by faster increases in total new orders and international sales, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from September's eight-month low of 56.5 to 57.5 in October, indicating a substantial and accelerated improvement in operating conditions.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The upturn in performance was boosted by stronger demand for Indian goods. Moreover, the introduction of new products and successful marketing initiatives helped enhance sales performance.

Upturn was boosted by stronger demand for goods ***PHOTO: FREEPIK***

New export orders also exhibited stronger growth, following the weakest uptick in a year-and-a-half during September. Panel members reported gains in new contracts from Asia, Europe, Latin America and the US.

On the prices front, the October data signalled stronger inflationary pressures across manufacturing sector.

Goods producers were also more willing to take on additional staff, which coupled with rising material costs, added to business expenses. Both input prices and selling charges increased at stronger rates.

Going ahead, Indian manufacturers became more optimistic regarding future output volumes. *—PTI*

Global solar investment to touch $500B: Pralhad

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday asserted that global solar investments will touch USD 500 billion this year from the USD 393 billion level in 2023 and said it is the most affordable energy source in many regions, surpassing coal and gas.

These investments are not only adding new capacity but also driving down the cost of energy from solar worldwide, Joshi, the minister of new and renewable energy, said addressing the inaugural session of 7th General Assembly of International Solar Alliance.

Joshi, who is also President of ISA, said, "This rapid growth is fuelled by record-breaking investments. Global solar investments have grown from USD 144 billion in 2018 to USD 393 billion in 2023 and are expected to reach USD 500 billion by the end of 2024."

He stated that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has set ambitious renewable energy targets, and achieved milestones.

India's Union Budget for 2024-25 reflects this commitment, with a 110 per cent increase in funding for solar power projects and targeted support for initiatives like the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, he stated. *— PTI*

Pralhad Joshi ***PHOTO: PTI***

India re-elected as President of Int'l Solar Alliance till 2026

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said India has been re-elected as the President of International Solar Alliance (ISA) from 2024 to 2026. 120 countries are a part of ISA and seek to promote the use of solar energy to combat climate crisis. France has been reelected as Vice-President of the ISA. India's election to the President post is a testament to the impactful work the country, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been doing over the years for the global good in advancing solar energy adoption across the globe and boosting investment in essential solar projects, including mini-grids and healthcare solutions, Joshi opined. Eight Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee, two from each of the four ISA geographical regions, were also selected by Assembly. *—PTI*

SEBI allows MFs to invest in overseas funds

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Markets regulator SEBI on Monday allowed mutual funds (MFs) to invest in overseas mutual funds or unit trusts that invest a specific portion of their assets in Indian securities.

This is subject to the total exposure to Indian securities by such overseas funds not exceeding 25 per cent of their net assets.

The move is aimed at facilitating ease of investment in overseas MF/UTs, bringing transparency in the manner of investment, and enabling MFs to diversify their overseas investments, SEBI said. The new framework will come into force with immediate effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said.

Also, MF schemes are required to ensure that all investors' contributions to an overseas MF/UT are combined into a single investment vehicle without any vehicles.

The corpus of an overseas MF/UT should be a blind pool with no segregated portfolios, ensuring all investors have equal and proportionate rights in the fund.

The regulator has barred advisory agreements between Indian MFs and the underlying overseas MFs to prevent conflicts of interest.

At the time of making investments (both fresh and subsequent), Indian MF schemes will have to ensure that the underlying overseas MF/UTs do not have more than 25 per cent exposure to Indian securities. *—PTI*

Govt eportal GeM launches 170 seed categories

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Public procurement portal Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on Monday said it has introduced 170 seed categories on the platform.

These seeds, it said, can be procured by central/state public sector units and other bodies for further dissemination across the country.

"We invite sellers to leverage these new seed categories and list their offerings to participate freely in government tenders. We also encourage seed corporations/state bodies to utilise these new categories for cost-effective procurement of quality seeds, Roli Khare, Deputy CEO, GeM, said.

*In-Solutions Global gets RBI authorisation for PPIs

In-Solutions Global Ltd (ISG) on Monday said it has been granted authorization by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs).

This approval, under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, represents a major milestone in ISG's mission to drive innovation and deliver cutting-edge digital payment solutions, the company said in a statement.

The PPIs will empower users to load, store, and spend funds across various digital platforms, ensuring flexibility and convenience in managing everyday financial activities, it said. *—PTI*

STRONG US DOLLAR FACTOR

RBI to focus on domestic factors even if Trump wins

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

A victory of Donald Trump in the upcoming US presidential elections could lead to a stronger US dollar says a report by Barclays.

The report noted that in previous US presidential elections, such as in 2019, a possible Trump win was also linked with expectations of a stronger dollar.

The report said "one key difference this time compared with 2019 is that a potential Trump victory would likely imply a stronger USD. This would likely complicate the policy calculus for some - but, importantly, not all - central banks in Emerging Asia".

As per the report, this anticipated strength in the dollar may influence the monetary policy strategies of some central banks, particularly in emerging markets across Asia.

A rising dollar often creates challenges for emerging market economies like India, as it can increase the cost of imported goods and impact trade balances.

However, the report said that India's central bank will prioritise its internal economic conditions and the Reserve Bank of India is likely to continue following this approach regardless of external pressures.

The report predicts that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will largely maintain its focus on domestic economic factors rather than reacting to global shifts.

It said "As with 2019, we would expect the Reserve Bank of India to remain focused on domestic dynamics".

The US Federal Reserve is meeting on Wednesday and Thursday to make key decisions on rate cuts.

The Fed's meeting could bring important changes in US monetary policy, potentially affecting global financial markets. *—ANI*

- The report said "one key difference this time compared with 2019 is that a potential Trump victory would likely imply a stronger USD

PHOTO: OLYMPICS.COM.AU

Delhi sign Olympian Whetton from Australia for HIL

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Delhi SG Pipers on Monday announced the signing of three-time Olympian Jacob 'Jake' Whetton of Australia for the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL) season. The 33-year-old midfielder will be replacing Dutchman Jorrit Croon, who has pulled out due to an ankle injury. Whetton has a wealth of experience with him, featuring in 253 games for the Kookaburras, netting 75 goals, and also helping the side win the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics. Besides, the Queenslander also won the World Cup in 2014 and helped his team finish third four years later. He also helped his side win gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014, Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022. He has also won Champions Trophy twice. *—PTI*

Leverkusen to face Bayern in 3rd round of German Cup

BERLIN, 4 NOV

Defending champion Bayer Leverkusen will play at Bayern Munich in the third round of the German Cup. Sunday's draw also pitted Leipzig against Eintracht Frankfurt. The highlight of the round will be Leverkusen's visit to Munich on 3 or 4 December. The teams already played there in the Bundesliga in September, when Leverkusen was arguably fortunate to emerge with a 1-1 draw. Leverkusen, which defeated Kaiserslautern in the final last season, finished 18 points ahead of Bayern in the Bundesliga as it claimed its first league and cup double last season. The other third-round matches are: Cologne vs. Hertha Berlin; Arminia Bielefeld vs. Freiburg; Werder Bremen vs. Darmstadt; Karlsruher SC vs. Augsburg. *—PTI*

Inter beat Venezia, trim gap with Napoli to 1 point

MILAN, 4 NOV

Inter Milan moved just one point behind Serie A leader Napoli ahead of their early title showdown next weekend. Lautaro Martínez scored the only goal of the match to help Inter to a 1-0 win over lowly Venezia on Sunday, shortly after Napoli was stunned 3-0 at home by Atalanta. Napoli coach Antonio Conte, who led Inter to the Serie A title in 2021, takes his team to San Siro next Sunday. Inter has another tough match before that as it hosts Arsenal in the Champions League on Wednesday. It was an entertaining match on Sunday and Inter, which knew it could cut the gap to Napoli to a 1 point, had many chances. But Nerazzurri goalkeeper Sommer was kept busy. *—PTI*

Mohamed Salah hints at dropping Liverpool contract

CAIRO, 4 NOV

Egyptian footballer Mohamed Salah hinted at his uncertain future with Liverpool on Sunday, stating he would never forget the feeling of scoring at Anfield "no matter what happens." The Egypt star secured Liverpool's place at the top of the Premier League with a stunning winner in Saturday's 2-1 victory against Brighton. Salah's ninth goal of the season emphasizes his crucial role as the Reds pursue their first English title since 2020. However, his contract expires at the end of the season, allowing him to negotiate with non-English clubs starting in January. Despite fans' concerns about Salah and other key players, Liverpool boss Arne Slot remains unfazed, saying, "The contract becomes a problem if players don't perform well."

—Salar News with Agencies

Gambhir's record under lens after Lanka, NZ loss

BCCI Chief Selector Agarkar talks to India team coach

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Unprecedented series defeats against Sri Lanka and New Zealand have placed Gautam Gambhir under immense pressure barely three months into his appointment as the head coach of the Indian team.

During the post-match visuals, BCCI Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar was seen having an intense chat with India head coach Gautam Gambhir. The visuals showed Agarkar discussing something with Gambhir, who was standing with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar.

He was appointed to the top post amid much fanfare and was also given a rare seat at the selection committee meeting for the tour of Australia. However, his initial report card clearly suggests things aren't looking good for the former India opener.

Unless there is a remarkable turnaround Down Under, Gambhir, who was given a free hand in selection matters, may not have as much say in issues concerning the team in the coming times.

Gautam Gambhir PHOTO: PTI

Right after Gambhir took over the reins, India lost an ODI series to Sri Lanka for the first time in 27 years, and then New Zealand completed a 3-0 whitewash of his side in Tests at home on Sunday, something the team never experienced in its long cricketing journey.

While the coach can do only as much, questions are now being raised about the lack of prudence on display by going for a rank turner in Mumbai despite knowing that the top-order has time and again failed in last six to seven years against quality spin bowling on wickets offering decent turn.

Even Gambhir's philosophy of playing the same way, come hell or high water, is something that those associated closely with Indian cricket have failed to fathom.

Agreeing to send pacer Mohammed Siraj as night-watchman on the second evening of the third Test against New Zealand in Mumbai and Sarfaraz Khan at No.8 in the first innings are some of the tactical moves that are being questioned by everyone.

"Gambhir was given access which his predecessors Ravi Shastri and Rahul Dravid didn't have. The BCCI's rule book doesn't allow coaches to be a part of the selection committee meetings, but for Australia tour selection meeting, an exception was made.

Captain Rohit Sharma on Sunday admitted the hosts felt having turning tracks was the "right thing to do" against New Zealand and accepted full responsibility for the defeat.

—PTI

There are a few ageing players there who may start to even second guess themselves a little bit. There's some high-class cricketers in that Indian squad. It's going to be fascinating to see how they rebound from that challenge

—Adam Gilchrist, Ex-Australian wicketkeeper-batter

The series defeat helps Australian guys. India is coming here after being beaten at home 3-0 for five Tests against the Australian boys, (who have) three world class quicks and a world class spin bowler, and I'd be nervous if I'm in they're batting order.

—David Warner, Ex-Australian opener

JAY TO BE ICC CHIEF

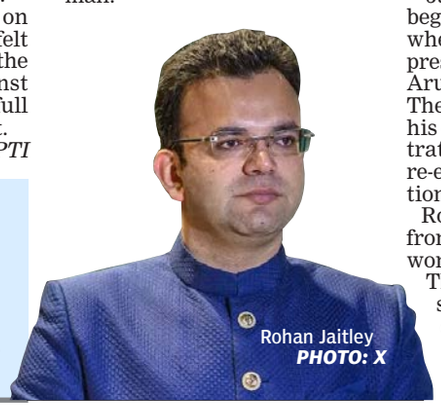
Rohan Jaitley may replace Shah as BCCI Secretary

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

With Jay Shah set to step down as the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in November, Rohan Jaitley has emerged as the frontrunner to replace him.

In August this year, Shah was elected unopposed as the new ICC chairman; he will replace Greg Barclay as the next ICC chief.

The BCCI secretary will be starting his stint as the ICC chairman from 1 December and he became the youngest to be elected as the ICC chairman.



Rohan Jaitley PHOTO: X

Jay Shah will become the fifth Indian to hold the prestigious post. The other Indians to ply their trade as the ICC chair are Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N Srinivasan, and Shashank Manohar.

Jaitley and Anil Patel are in contention to replace him, according to a media report. Jaitley is now the president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) while Patel is the secretary of the Gujarat Cricket Association.

No Special General Meeting (SGM) will be called to discuss the next secretary's appointment, the report said.

Jaitley's tenure at the DDCA began around four years ago when he was elected as its president, a position his father Arun Jaitley held for 14 years. The appointment also marked his entry into cricket administration. Later, Jaitley was re-elected without any opposition.

Rohan has received praise from several quarters for his work as the DDCA President. The son of Arun Jaitle oversaw the successful hosting of five ODI World Cup matches at the Arun Jaitley Stadium last year.

—Agencies

ON 24 & 25 NOV

IPL auction likely to be held in Riyadh

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

The mega auction for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season is expected to be held in Riyadh at the end of this month, according to sources.

All ten franchises have announced their list of retained players for the IPL 2025, which turned out to be full of surprises and some expected decisions.

As all teams have retained the players that they feel will be core to their success in the upcoming season of the cash-rich league, all eyes have now shifted towards the mega auction.

According to sources, the IPL auction will be in Riyadh, the dates are likely to be 24 to 25 November.

The retention lists of all ten franchises for the Indian Premier League (IPL) season next year were finally unveiled last week, with several big guns, including Jos Buttler, Aiden Markram, Glenn Maxwell, Faf Du Plessis,

PHOTO: PTI

KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and many more were allowed to enter the auction by their respective franchises.

The teams retained a total of 46 players while investing a cumulative sum of Rs 558.5 crore. Out of a total of 46 players retained across all franchises, 36 players are Indian. Out of these, 10 players are uncapped Indian stars. *—PTI*

Man United makes worst league start in 1-1 draw with Chelsea

MANCHESTER, 4 NOV

A tumultuous week for Manchester United ended with a 1-1 draw against Chelsea and the unwanted statistic that the club has made its worst league start for almost 40 years.

Moises Caicedo's stunning long-range volley secured a point for Chelsea and left United on 12 points which Opta, the Premier League's stats supplier, said was its lowest after 10 games since the 1986-87 season.

That was the year Alex Ferguson was hired and went on to lead the club to a period of unprecedented success, winning 13 Premier League titles and two Champions Leagues.

United fans will have to hope that is a good omen after Erik ten Hag was fired this week and replaced by Ruben Amorim. "Whenever you see a manager go you have to take some of the blame on yourself, it is because the team is not doing so well," United captain Bruno Fernandes said Sunday. "I spoke to the manager (Ten Hag) and apologised to him. I was disappointed he has gone and I tried to help him."

Under new coach Ruben Amorim, Manchester United has made its worst league start for almost 40 years PHOTO: X@AMORIMREDS_

Chelsea moved up to fourth in the standings, ahead of Arsenal on goal difference, while United is six points behind in 13th and playing catchup for Champions League qualification. *—PTI*

Champions League teams chase 10-point tally

MADRID, 4 NOV

The first Champions League team will reach 10 points this week and likely ensure advancing to the knockout stage as the untested 36-team standings format reaches the midway point.

Either Liverpool or Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen will have 10 points after they meet at Anfield on Tuesday, when Manchester City also can do it by winning at Sporting Lisbon that is still being coached by Rúben Amorim until he joins Manchester United one week later.

English teams hold the top three places in the table, with recent European champions Man City and Liverpool looking up at surprise leader Aston Villa.

Villa, the 1982 European Cup winner, goes for a fourth straight win Wednesday at Club Brugge. Much further down the standings, the two teams with the most titles in the competition's 70-season history — both when coached by Carlo Ancelotti — meet in Spain. *—PTI*

India to host England, Australia in home series

DUBAI, 4 NOV

India will host Australia and England in high-profile home series as the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday gave significance to Test matches and bilateral rubbers while announcing women's cricket Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the 2025-29 cycle.

Apart from the storied rivals, India will also face Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, who was unveiled as the 11th member of the FTP, at home during the four-year period.

The Women in Blue will also travel to New Zealand, West Indies, Ireland and South Africa in this phase as each member nations are scheduled to play four series at home and abroad.

ICC announced women's cricket Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the 2025-29 cycle PHOTO: X@AIRNEWSALERTS

Apart from this, India will also feature in a tri-series in England ahead of the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, the third team being reigning champions New Zealand.

England will host the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup.

"Members have also penciled in more Test matches this time, with Australia, England, India, South Africa and the West Indies all agreeing to play multi-format series that include ODIs and T20Is," said Wasim Khan, ICC General Manager of Cricket, in a media release.

"Australia will play the maximum such series – two each against England, India and South Africa and one against the West Indies," he said.

The members have scheduled, by mutual agreement, tri-series as preparation for ICC events in this cycle. *—PTI*

SHAMI'S RETURN TO CRICKET DELAYED; NOT TO PLAY FOR BENGAL

BENGALURU, 4 NOV

Mohammed Shami's return to competitive cricket has been further pushed back after the veteran pacer was not named in the Bengal squad for the next two rounds of the Ranji Trophy against Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Bengal will take on Karnataka at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here from Wednesday, before travelling to Indore to take on MP from 13 November.

Shami was expected to play the fixture against Karnataka to test his fitness in a real-match situation as he bowled at full tilt at nets after India's recent Test match against New Zealand here, though with bandage on his operated leg. He was also monitored by India's bowling coach Morne Morkel.

Later Shami said during a promotional event that he was feeling "100 per cent" at nets. *—PTI*

Cummins leads Australia to win over Pak in 1st ODI

MELBOURNE, 4 NOV

Captain Pat Cummins kept his nerve on his return to international cricket to lead Australia to a nervy two-wicket win over Pakistan in the first one-day international on Monday.

A calm Cummins made an unbeaten 32 off 31 balls to steer Australia to 204-8 with more than 16 overs to spare, after the middle-order had stumbled in a modest run chase.

Searing pace from Mitchell Starc (3-33) had earlier helped to bowl out Pakistan for 203 with Cummins, playing his first international since the T20 World Cup in June, picking up 2-39 after he won the toss and elected to field.

Josh Inglis (49) and Steve Smith (44) had the chase under control at 113-2 before Pakistan's four-pronged pace attack had Australia reeling at 155-7 on a bouncy MCG wicket.

Pat Cummins, Australia Captain PHOTO: X @CRICCRAZYJOHNS

Fast bowler Haris Rauf (3-67) ignited the collapse when he had Smith caught at point and then Marnus Labuschagne (16) and Glenn Maxwell (0) were undone by pacey deliveries. Shaheen Shah Afridi picked up 2-43, but Cummins added 30 runs with Sean Abbott before the skipper carried his side over the line for a 1-0 lead in the 3-match series.

Earlier, five of Pakistan's six top-order batters struggled to cope with the pace of Starc and Cummins. *—PTI*

GAUFF BEATS PEGULA AT WTA FINALS

RIYADH, 4 NOV

Coco Gauff enjoyed a successful start by beating Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-2 in an American matchup at the WTA Finals. Second-seeded Iga Swiatek rallied to beat Barbora Krejcikova 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 in her first match in two months. Gauff converted five of her eight break-point opportunities to win her opening match at the year-ending tournament for the top eight ranked players. Gauff will face Swiatek on Tuesday with the winner taking control of the Orange Group. Pegula will next face Wimbledon champion Krejcikova. Swiatek, who arrived at the WTA Finals with a new coach, hadn't played a match since losing to Pegula in straight sets in the US Open quarterfinals in September. *—PTI*

SAFE HANDS

'Superman' Saha, one of India's finest wicketkeepers, to retire

NEW DELHI, 4 NOV

Spectacular with the big gloves, quietly assured with the willow and yet happy to be in the shadows, Wriddhiman Saha, in his 40 Test matches for India, has certainly been more than the sum total of all his parts.

But having been out of India reckoning for over three years now, the 40-year-old has decided to call it quits from the game at the end of his team Bengal's ongoing Ranji Trophy campaign.

He never had the aura of a Mahendra Singh Dhoni or the insane daredevilry of a talented Rishabh Pant but Saha, with his hands as safe as a house, was more than a mere hyphen between the two powerhouse performers of Indian cricket.

Saha will retire after ongoing Ranji Trophy season PHOTO: PTI

The 104 dismissals behind the stumps, including 92 catches in Tests, some of them absolutely splendid, Saha's three centuries and six fifties aren't always spoken about for their effectiveness. Neither the eight six-laden century in a losing cause for erstwhile Kings XI Punjab in the 2014 IPL final.

But Saha, for the better part of the 17 years since his Ranji debut in 2007, was happy to stay out of the spotlight.

Patience came easy to him as he had to wait nearly two years between his debut and second Test and nearly three years between his second and third Tests.

Saha was an old-fashioned Indian keeper brilliant behind the stumps and a safe batter.

—PTI